FAST TRACKS: Get holiday gifts in the nick of time by riding Metro | **Styles**

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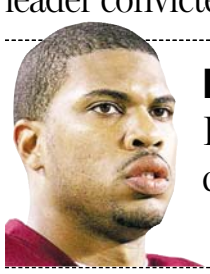
Weekend

KIN CHEUNG/AP

The Clinton Foundation released its list of donors.

Donors List: Moguls, Arab states fund Clinton charity | 3

Genocide: Former military leader convicted in Rwanda | 6



Finish Line: Redskins' future could hinge on last 2 games | 13

ENTERTAINMENT

Brain Tease: *Will Smith* saves strangers in the pretentiously complex 'Seven Pounds.' Plus, 'A Tale of Despereaux' lacks charm.

>> 17-26

Credit Card Rules Overhauled

Regulators impose tough new rules to protect cardholders

WASHINGTON | Federal regulators on Thursday adopted sweeping new rules for the credit card industry that, among other changes, will shield consumers from increases in interest rates on existing account balances.

The rules, which take effect in July 2010, will allow credit card companies to raise interest rates only on new credit cards and future purchases or advances, rather than on current balances.

Amid the economic crisis and rising job losses, consumers — even those with strong credit records — have been defaulting at high levels on their credit cards.

The rules were approved by the Federal Reserve, the Treasury Department's Office of Thrift Supervision and the National Credit Union Administration.

The changes mark the most sweeping clampdown on the credit card industry in decades and are aimed at protecting consumers from arbitrary hikes in interest rates or inadequate time provided to pay the bills. They also restrict such lender practices as allocating all payments to balances with lower interest rates when a borrower has balances with different rates.

"These protections will allow consumers to access credit on terms that are fair and more easily understood," Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said in a statement.

The changes could cost the banking industry more than $10 billion a year in interest payments, according to a study by the law firm Morrison & Foerster. (AP)

Military Maps Out Inaugural Strategy

BILL O'LEARY/TWP

BIG PICTURE: Armed Forces Inaugural Committee Chairman Maj. Gen. Richard Rowe Jr. stands on a 40-foot-by-40-foot map of Washington during a briefing at the D.C. Armory on Thursday. The massive map will be used to prepare for the record crowd expected for President-elect Obama's inauguration.

pollcenter

DO RICK WARREN'S VIEWS ON GAYS MAKE HIM A POOR CHOICE TO GIVE THE INAUGURAL INVOCATION? (A) YES (B) NO

TO CAST YOUR VOTE, VISIT **EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM** OR TEXT **A** FOR 'YES' OR **B** FOR 'NO' TO 98999. FOR THURSDAY'S POLL RESULTS, SEE PAGE 36

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
50 | 37	40 | 37	37 | 27

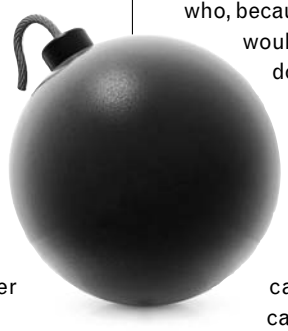
TODAY: A cloudy and warmer day with intermittent showers likely | 38

eyeOpeners

TEENAGERS

'Is Your Refrigerator Ticking? Hello?'

Police said a man repeatedly called in bomb threats to a Pittsburgh-area high school so his girlfriend would get out of class early. Christopher Wiley, 19, of Duquesne, has been sentenced to the time he has served in the Allegheny County Jail since May for the threats to Steel Valley High School in Homestead. Wiley was sentenced after pleading guilty Wednesday to risking a catastrophe and other charges. Police said the school was evacuated at least 13 times between May 15 and 22 because of Wiley's prank calls. No explosives were ever found. Wiley acknowledged making the calls but says he did so fewer than 10 times. (AP)



ANIMALS

His Hair's Less Shiny

Questions have been dogging Illinois ever since Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested last week on corruption charges. Now, a California couple say the answer to all the state's woes may, in fact, be a dog — their dog. Michael Sunday and his family have launched an Internet campaign touting their 14-year-old border collie named Scuba as the next governor of the state. Sunday wonders whether Scuba — who, because he's deaf, certainly wouldn't hear calls to step down — wouldn't do any worse than Blagojevich. Sunday really doesn't think Scuba has a shot. "He's not going to do any damage," Sunday told the Chicago Tribune. "No one can bribe him." (AP)

JAY DIRECTO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CELEBRATIONS

One With Nature

The symbol of the University of the Philippines is "The Oblation," a statue that represents submission of the self to the greater good of the country. Want to know what it looks like? Well, it looks like these guys — students at the University of the Philippines who are mimicking the statue's pose en masse at an event known as the 100 Oblations, commemorating the university's centennial. So, the pose signifies submission, not confusion about how those leaves got there. (EXPRESS)

STOICISM

Bang! You're Fine?

A man who was hit by a stray bullet in the back of the head is back at work — with the slug still stuck in his skull. E.T. Strickland, 74, a commercial real estate agent in Riviera Beach, Fla., said the bullet hurts, but not enough to keep him from his job. Strickland was told by his doctors not to have the bullet removed unless it was pressing on any arteries or causing health problems. He does plan to see a neurosurgeon, though, because he wants it taken out if possible. Police said the bullet that hit Strickland Tuesday night was fired during an attempted robbery. (AP)

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NO, THANKS: Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin would not accept a pay raise recommended by a state compensation commission, according to a spokesman. The panel proposed boosting the governor's pay from $125,000 to $150,000.

Nation

Blagojevich Wiretaps Under Fire

Ill. governor's lawyer says audio tapes were obtained illegally

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. | A lawyer for Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich told state lawmakers Thursday that the federal wiretaps at the heart of the pay-to-play allegations against his client were illegally obtained, and therefore should be kept out of any impeachment proceedings.

The wiretaps are crucial to the federal charges filed against Blagojevich last week. Prosecutors say they caught the Democratic governor discussing efforts to auction off Barack Obama's U.S. Senate seat and pressure a hospital executive for campaign donations.

Genson told the impeachment committee that it shouldn't consider any material from the wiretaps, saying the evidence was "illegally obtained." Earlier on MSNBC, Genson said the governor maintains his innocence: "He's telling me that he's not guilty, he's telling me that he wants to fight."

The Illinois House has appointed a 21-member committee to review the possibility of impeachment. The panel, divided 12-9 between Democrats and Republicans, will recommend whether the full House should move to impeach Blagojevich.

CHRISTOPHER WILLS (AP)

Saudis, Moguls Top Clinton Donors

Ex-president discloses the records for nearly $500M for his charity

WASHINGTON | The world opened its wallet for Bill Clinton. Governments, corporations and billionaires with their own interests in U.S. foreign policy gave the former president's charity millions of dollars, according to records he released Thursday to lay bare any financial entanglements that could affect his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, as the next secretary of state.

Saudi Arabia, Norway and other foreign governments gave at least $46 million, and donors with ties to India delivered millions more. Corporate donors included the Blackwater security firm, at risk of losing its lucrative government contract to protect U.S. diplomats in Iraq, and Web company Yahoo, involved in disputes over surrendering Internet information to Chinese authorities that led to the imprisonment of dissidents there.

Clinton

Other high-profile Clinton donors don't suggest inevitable collisions between U.S. policies and their giving. Celebrities Barbra Streisand, Steven Spielberg, Paul Newman, Carly Simon and Chevy Chase all contributed. Sports figures included New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner.

The records account for at least $492 million in contributions to the William J. Clinton Foundation, a nonprofit created by the former president. President-elect Barack Obama made Hillary Clinton's nomination as secretary of state contingent on her husband's revealing the foundation's contributors, ending a decade of resistance to identifying them. (AP)

NEW YORK | KENNEDY SEEKS SHARPTON'S BACKING

BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

LUNCH MEETING: The Rev. Al Sharpton, left, and Caroline Kennedy arrive for lunch at the famed soul food restaurant Sylvia's in Harlem Thursday. Kennedy is seeking Sharpton's support in her quest to fill Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate seat.

Doctor Discovers Foot Inside Brain Tumor of Infant

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. | A pediatric neurosurgeon says a tumor he removed from the brain of a U.S. infant contained a tiny foot and other partially formed body parts.

Dr. Paul Grabb says he operated on Sam Esquibel at Memorial Hospital for Children, Colorado Springs, after an MRI showed a microscopic tumor on the newborn's brain. Sam was 3 days old and otherwise healthy.

Grabb says that while removing the growth, he discovered it contained a nearly perfect foot and the formation of another foot, a hand and a thigh. "It looked like the breech delivery of a baby, coming out of the brain," Grabb said. (AP)

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Nation

3.6 | **The amount, in inches,** of snow Las Vegas received Thursday morning. It was biggest December snowfall on record there, and the worst for any month since a 7½-inch accumulation in January 1979, forecasters said.

Obama Close to Filling His Cabinet

President-elect names new regulators amid ongoing financial crisis

CHICAGO | Nearing completion of his Cabinet, President-elect Barack Obama has selected California Rep. Hilda Solis as his labor secretary and former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk as U.S. trade representative, officials said Thursday.

Obama planned to formally announce the Solis and Kirk selections soon, perhaps as early as Friday, along with that of Republican Rep. Ray LaHood of Illinois for transportation secretary.

On Thursday, Obama named three veteran regulators to help clean up financial debacles. Amid a year-old recession that's still deepening, Obama blamed much of the nation's economic troubles on government regulators who "dropped the ball," and he called for a return to ethics and tough enforcement.

Standing before reporters on Thursday, Obama selected Securities and Exchange Commission veteran Mary Schapiro as chairwoman of that agency, former Treasury official Gary Gensler to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and law professor Daniel Tarullo to fill an empty Federal Reserve seat. All three will need to be confirmed by the Senate next year.

Obama is trying to get most of his major appointments out of the way before heading to Hawaii for a holiday vacation, and has held a news conference each day this week to unveil top positions. He has yet to announce senior intelligence positions, and numerous sub-Cabinet posts remain unfilled. (AP)

GERALD HERBERT/AP

President-elect Barack Obama announces Mary Schapiro, left, as his choice for chairwoman of the SEC on Thursday.

Obama Defends Pastor Choice For Invocation

WASHINGTON | President-elect Barack Obama on Thursday defended his choice of a popular evangelical minister to deliver the invocation at his inauguration, rejecting criticism that it slights gays.

The selection of Pastor Rick Warren brought objections from gay rights advocates, who strongly supported Obama during the election campaign. The advocates are angry over Warren's backing of a California ballot initiative banning gay marriage. That measure was approved by voters last month.

Warren

But Obama told reporters in Chicago that America needs to "come together," even when there's disagreement on social issues. "That dialogue is part of what my campaign is all about," he said. (AP)

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World

TIME TO QUIT? Finland is considering a ban on candy cigarettes and licorice pipes to discourage young people from smoking. The Health Ministry received a study Thursday that proposes outlawing the sale of candy in the shape of tobacco products.

Rwandan Is Convicted of Genocide

Ex-colonel sentenced to life in prison for planning 1994 killings

ARUSHA, TANZANIA | A former Rwandan army colonel was convicted Thursday of genocide and crimes against humanity for masterminding the killings of more than half a million people in a 100-day slaughter in 1994. Survivors in Rwanda welcomed the watershed moment in a long search for justice.

The U.N. courtroom in Tanzania was packed for the culmination of the trial of Theoneste Bagosora, 67, the highest-ranking Rwandan official to be convicted in the genocide.

TONY KARUMBA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ex-army colonel Theoneste Bagosora sits in a court in Tanzania on Thursday. He was convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity for the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

GENOCIDE'S WIDE REACH

- The 1994 genocide saw government troops, Hutu militia and villagers — spurred on by hate messages on the radio — killing men, women and children.
- About 63,000 people are suspected of taking part in the genocide. Many were sentenced by community courts, where suspects were urged to confess in exchange for lighter sentences.

Onlookers were silent as Bagosora was sentenced to life in prison.

"Let him think about what he did for the rest of his life," said Jean Pierre Sagahutu, 46, in Rwanda, who lost his parents and seven siblings. He escaped by hiding in a septic tank for 2½ months.

Former military commanders Anatole Nsengiyumva and Aloys Ntabakuze also were found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced to life in prison.

The U.N. Security Council created a tribunal in 1994 to prosecute those responsible for "genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law."

The court said Bagosora used his position as the authority in Rwanda's Ministry of Defense to direct Hutu soldiers to kill Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The court also said he was responsible for the deaths of former Rwandan Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and 10 Belgian peacekeepers. SUKHDEV CHHATBAR (AP)

In Brief

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Hamas: Cease-Fire With Israel Won't Be Extended

Two Hamas officials said the Islamic group would not extend a six-month truce with the Israelis as militants in the Gaza Strip fired rockets at southern Israel and Israel hit back with airstrikes Thursday. Hamas said previously that the cease-fire ends Friday, but Israel maintained the unwritten truce did not have an expiration date. Violence has already resumed, although at a lower level than before the truce took effect. (AP)

GUANGZHOU, CHINA

Cat Lovers Protest Killing Felines for Food in Beijing

About 40 cat lovers unfurled banners in a tearful protest against the killing of cats for food outside a government office in Beijing on Thursday. The protesters' indignation was whipped up by recent reports in Chinese newspapers about the cat meat industry. On Monday, the Southern Metropolis Daily — a Guangdong paper famous for its exposes and aggressive reporting — ran a story that said about 1,000 cats were transported to butchers in Guangdong each day. F elines are the main ingredient in a famous soup made in the province. (AP)

YONHAP, AHN JUNG-WON/AP

South Korean opposition lawmakers try to enter a room barricaded by the ruling party in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday.

S. Koreans Brawl Over Trade Deal

Lawmakers use saw, sledgehammer to get into barricaded room

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | Brawling South Korean lawmakers tried to sledgehammer their way into a parliamentary meeting room barricaded by the ruling party as the National Assembly descended into chaos Thursday over a free trade agreement with the United States.

Opposition parties were incensed by the ruling Grand National Party's move to submit the agreement to a committee on trade, setting in motion the process for the accord to win approval in the legislature.

Scuffles broke out as opposition members and their aides attempted to push their way into the office.

Opponents used a sledgehammer and construction tools to tear open the room's wooden doors, only to find barricades of furniture inside.

Cable news channel YTN reported that an electric saw was used to open the door. YTN footage showed security guards spraying fire extinguishers at those trying to force their way inside and one man with blood trickling down his face.

The opposition attempt failed, and 10 GNP legislators introduced the bill to the committee.

Clashes between lawmakers are not unusual in South Korea. JAE-SOON CHANG (AP)

Protesters burn an American flag at a rally in Peshawar, Pakistan, Thursday.

10,000 Protest U.S. Supply Line In Pakistan's NW

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN | Thousands of anti-government protesters demanded Thursday that Pakistan shut the route along which supplies are ferried to U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

The demonstration by more than 10,000 people in the northwestern city of Peshawar also focused on a recent series of U.S. missile strikes against suspected al-Qaeda and Taliban targets in Pakistan's tribal areas along the Afghan border and Pakistani military offensives against Islamic insurgents in the area.

Leaders of the demonstration drew links between the missile attacks and the supply line, saying the equipment was being used for attacks on Pakistani soil and vowing to shut down the convoys. (AP)

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World

"It is too late to reverse the big and ugly act that I perpetrated."

—**Muntadhar al-Zeidi**, the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at President Bush, in a letter delivered to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, according to the prime minister's spokesman. Al-Zeidi reportedly asked for a pardon.

Arrests Reveal Iraqi Fears

More than 20 officials are accused of trying to revive Saddam's party

BAGHDAD | The arrests of more than 20 security officials for allegedly trying to revive Saddam Hussein's banned political party show that the Shiite-led government believes that supporters of the old regime still pose a threat — perhaps as much as al-Qaeda or Iranian-backed militias.

Iraqi officials said Thursday that up to 25 people from the three major security ministries have been arrested in the past week on accusations of conspiring to restore the Baath party, whose exiled leaders staunchly oppose the current government.

But Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul-Karim Khalaf dismissed a report in the New York Times that the conspirators were planning a coup. He called the report "nonsense" and "baseless." Other prominent Shiites made similar remarks and said the group appeared to be loosely organized.

SABAH ARAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Iraqi PM Nouri al-Maliki, center, tours a reopened street in Baghdad Thursday.

Another security official said most of those arrested were from the traffic department of the Interior Ministry and that the highest-ranking figure was a brigadier general. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not supposed to talk to the media.

The Times quoted an unidentified high-ranking Interior Ministry official as saying that security officials had paid bribes to recruit followers and that huge amounts of money had been found in raids.

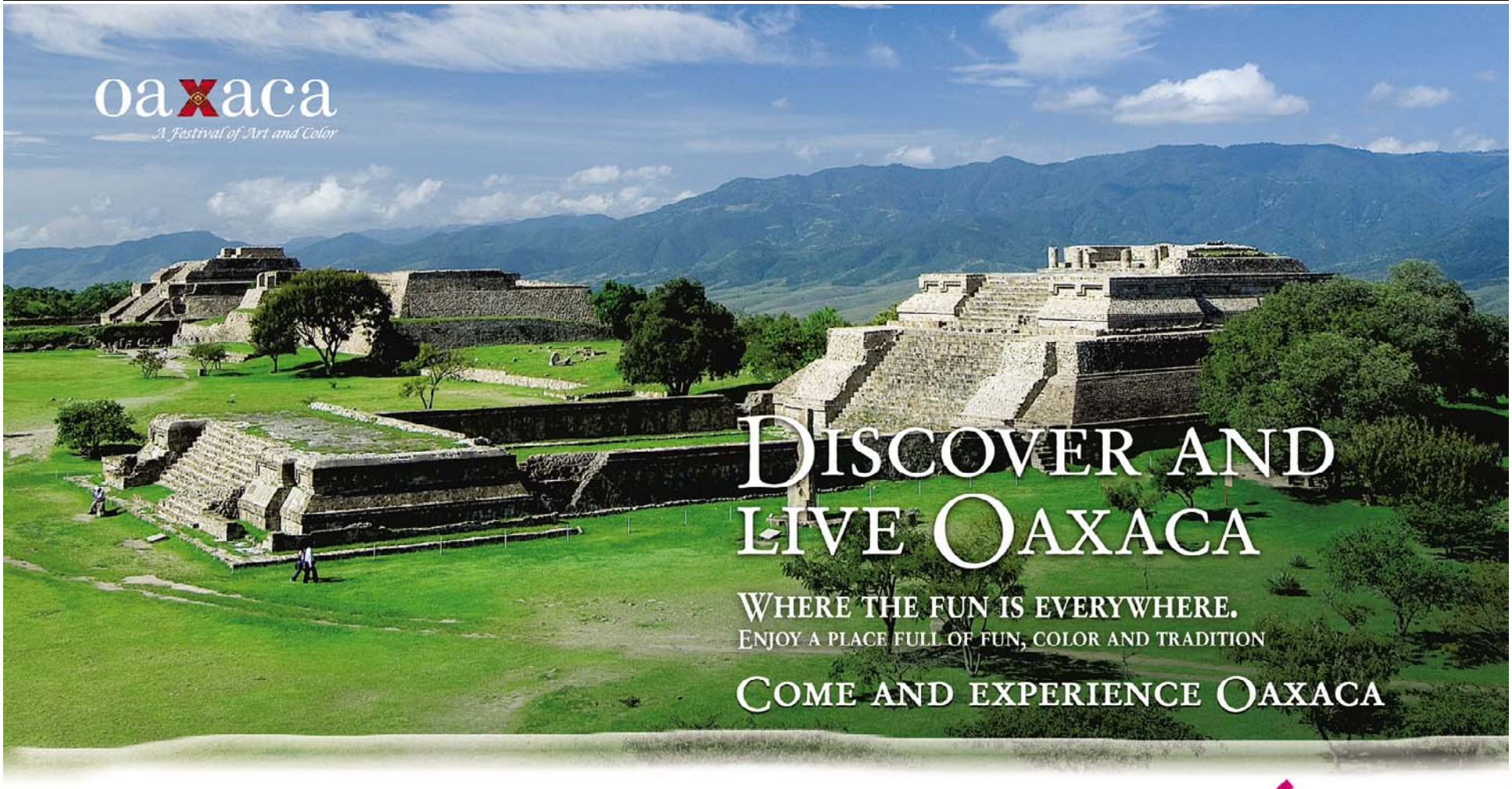
Some Iraqi politicians speculated the move was part of a campaign to bolster Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's power before two key elections next year — at the expense of Sunnis and secular figures.

"I demand the government stop this matter," Sunni politician Saleh al-Mutlaq said of the investigation. "It's a fabrication." ROBERT H. REID (AP)

ATHENS | PROTESTERS SET CARS ABLAZE

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/AP

FIERY RIOT: Police advance after rioting youths set a car ablaze during clashes in central Athens, Greece, on Thursday. The protesters had broken away from a peaceful rally and hurled rocks and firebombs at police and buildings near parliament, sending Christmas shoppers running for cover.



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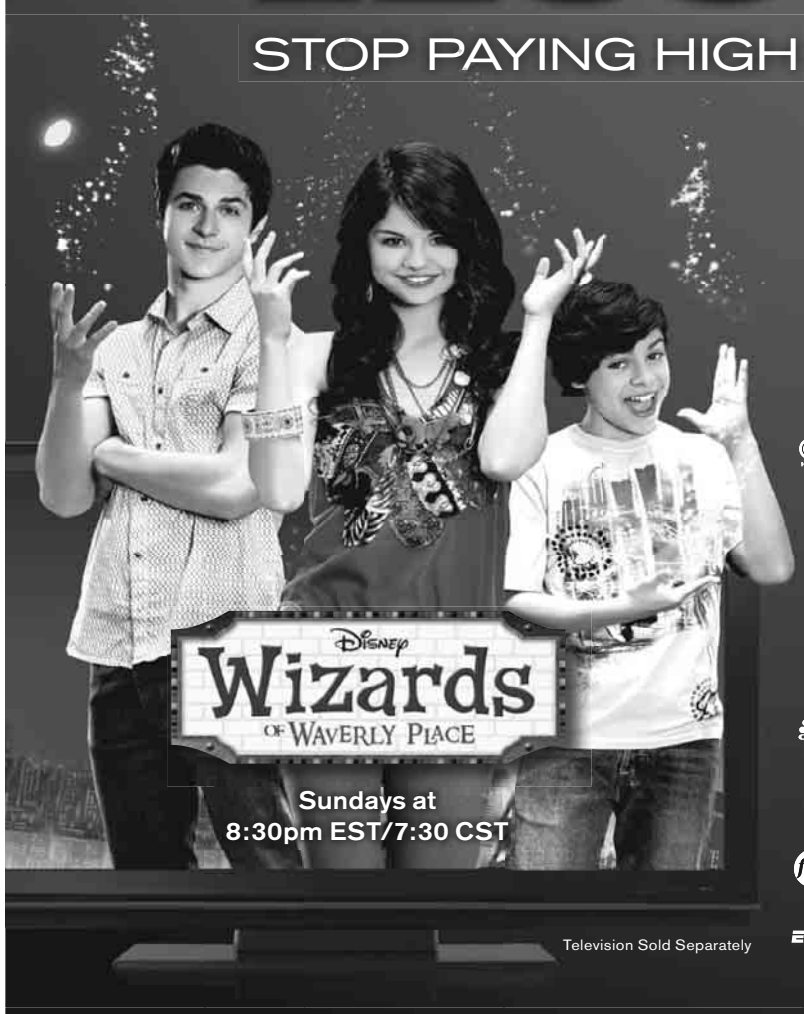

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ADS2247

Money

DOWNGRADE: Ratings agency Standard & Poor's says there is a chance that General Electric Co. could lose its coveted Triple-A credit rating in the next two years because of troubles at GE's financing arm. S&P is lowering its outlook for GE and GE Capital to negative from stable.

Bush Mulls 'Orderly' Bankruptcies

President considers federal rescue plan for ailing auto industry

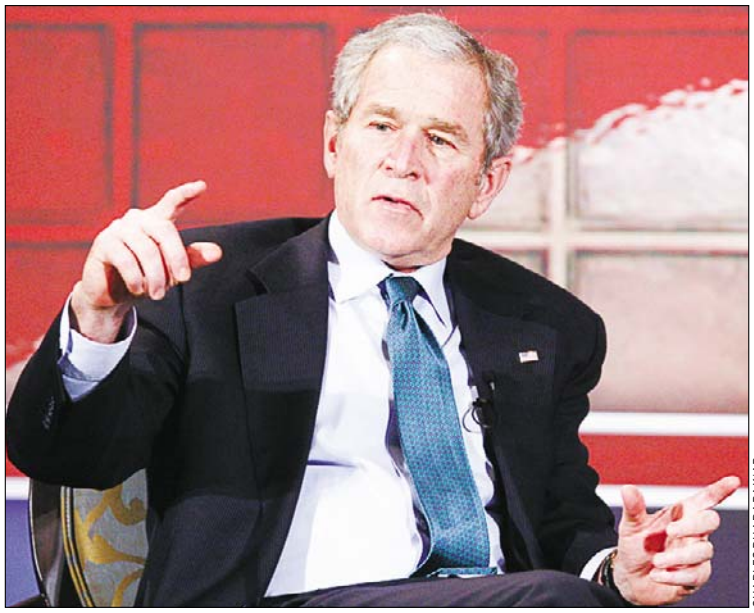
WASHINGTON | The Bush administration is looking at "orderly" bankruptcy as a possible way to deal with the desperately ailing U.S. auto industry, the White House said Thursday as carmakers readied more plant closings and a half million Americans filed new jobless claims.

With General Motors, Chrysler and the rest of Detroit anxiously holding its breath and waiting for a federal rescue, White House press secretary Dana Perino said, "There's an orderly way to do bankruptcies that provides for more of a soft landing. I think that's what we would be talking about."

President Bush, when asked about an auto bailout, said he hadn't decided what he would do but didn't want to leave a mess for Barack Obama, who takes office a month from Saturday.

Bush, like Perino, spoke of the idea of bankruptcies orchestrated by the federal government as a possible way to go — without committing to it.

"Under normal circumstances, no question bankruptcy court is the best way to work through credit and debt and restructuring," he said during a speech and question-and-answer session at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank. "These aren't normal circumstances. That's the problem."



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

President Bush answers a question at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington, on Thursday. He's considering an auto industry bailout plan.

Perino said the White House was "very close" to a decision — though she wouldn't give a timetable. She emphasized there were still several possible approaches to assisting the automakers, including short-term loans from the Treasury Department's $700 billion Wall Street bailout program.

The Big Three automakers said anew that bankruptcy wasn't the answer, as did an official of the United Auto Workers who called the idea unworkable and even dangerous. GM said a report that it and Chrysler had restarted talks to combine was untrue.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Capitol Hill that grim new unemployment data heightened the urgency for the administration "to prevent the imminent insolvency of the domestic auto industry."

The California Democrat said Bush has the legal authority to act now, and should attach the accountability standards that were included in a $14 billion House-passed and Bush-supported carmaker bailout that died in the Senate last week. That plan would have given the government, through a Bush-appointed "car czar," veto power over major business decisions at any auto company that received federal loans.

> "There's an orderly way to do bankruptcies that provides ... a soft landing."
>
> **DANA PERINO**, W.H. PRESS SECRETARY

Pelosi spoke after the government announced that initial claims for unemployment benefits totaled a seasonally adjusted 554,000 last week.

The comments in Washington came a day after Chrysler LLC announced it was closing all its North American manufacturing plants for at least a month as it, General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. await word on government action. General Motors also has been closing plants, and it and Chrysler have said they might not have enough money to pay their bills in a matter of weeks.

JENNIFER LOVEN (AP)

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—**D.C. CFO Natwar Gandhi**, in an April 2007 e-mail to tax scam mastermind Harriette Walters.

Local

WASHINGTON | A REASON TO PARTY

NIKKI KAHN/TWP

CLEAR VIEW: Frederick Nowlin Jr., 27, of Washington, D.C., washes the window outside Political America near the White House along 15th Street NW on Thursday. "I'll celebrate on Inauguration Day," said Nowlin, who was working on election night and missed an opportunity to celebrate then.

Md. Diploma Waivers OK'd

High school seniors who didn't pass exams may graduate on time

Hundreds of Maryland high school seniors who have not passed exit exams might be eligible for a waiver of the graduation requirements under a regulation the state Board of Education approved unanimously Thursday morning.

The waiver process, first outlined Wednesday, provides another path to a diploma for some of the 4,000 Maryland seniors who have not passed one or more of the High School Assessments in algebra, English, biology and government. The estimate of 4,000 at-risk seniors is sharply reduced from an earlier statewide estimate of 9,000 because, state officials said, thousands of those students have met graduation standards in recent months.

> "This is not going to salvage every kid, and it's not for thousands of kids."
>
> **NANCY GRASMICK**, SUPERINTENDENT

This year's senior class is the first required to reach minimum scores on the tests. Lawmakers and some parent groups are worried that the requirement could deprive thousands of students of diplomas. But other critics fear the state has weakened what was originally a simple proposition: to strengthen the value of a Maryland diploma.

"This is not about any kind of strategy to make sure that a child learns what we want him or her to learn," Montgomery County school board President Shirley Brandman said. "This is an out."

Much of the power to grant waivers rests with principals and superintendents, who decide whether a student is eligible. But State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick said she would be "looking over their shoulders" to ensure that the state standards are closely enforced. "This is not going to salvage every kid, and it's not for thousands of kids," Grasmick said. "These are very stringent requirements."

NELSON HERNANDEZ (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Court Rejects New Pants Suit Trial

WASHINGTON | The District of Columbia Court of Appeals has rejected a request for a new trial from a former administrative law judge who filed a $54 million lawsuit against a dry cleaner over a pair of lost pants.

Roy L. Pearson filed an appeal in October to overturn a 2007 ruling that denied him damages. Pearson had argued the neighborhood dry cleaner Custom Cleaners failed to live up to its promise of "Satisfaction Guaranteed."

Three appellate judges unanimously agreed Pearson failed to show the store's advertising amounted to fraud, saying the argument "defies logic."

Pearson has two appeal options left. He can either ask the entire nine-judge appellate court to review the case or appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Dec. 18

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	0-5-0
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	9-9-1
Mid-day DC 4	9-6-9-9
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	6-2-6-9
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	7-8-10-14-30
Daily 6 (Wed.)	22-25-28-29-31-33 Bonus: 39
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	1-7-11-26-28 (8)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	4-6-0
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	3-5-1
Mid-day Pick 4	6-2-0-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	6-1-5-3
Match 5 (Wed.)	2-8-10-24-29 Bonus: XX
Lotto (Wed.)	1-5-15-19-25-41

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	1-0-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	0-8-7
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	9-3-2-9
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	8-6-1-0
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	6-7-21-24-28
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	6-23-25-26-29
Win for Life (Wed.)	6-12-16-32-37-41

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	7-11-18-24-30 (26)
Power Play	4X

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Sunday in The Washington Post

TERRY WARD/FTWP

MARKET, PLACE: Crowds of people try to maneuver through a Christmas market in Hamburg, Germany — a country that has come to be known for its holiday cheer.

Christmas Buzz

It's eat, drink and be merry at Germany's famed holiday markets

IN TRAVEL | For an American raised on shopping-mall Santas and Christmas Eve drives through the suburbs to ogle people's decorated houses, there's nothing quite like walking around a German Weihnachtsmarkt, or Christmas market.

Christmas markets are found in cities and villages throughout Germany every December, with some stretching into the new year. This is a people who likes its Christmas traditions as old-school and warm and fuzzy as they come.

The Fleetinsel market is one of the smallest of Hamburg's nine Christmas markets. At 6 p.m., office workers are beelining it to the most popular tent, where giant vats of glüuehwein, or mulled wine, are being drained into mugs for the bundled-up masses. I plunk down four euros for a steaming mug and join a group circled around a fire pit for warmth.

Around us, the white tents are mood-lit to perfection, strung with fresh garlands of greenery and dotted with red bows. Formal-looking signs — old-fashioned gold-and-red surrounded by gold scrollwork — announce the goods for sale.

It's a short walk to the Rathaus, where I meet Joern Loeding, who leads guided tours of Hamburg, to scope out the city's most famous market, in front of the city hall.

A village of wooden huts designed by a famous circus director from Cologne has taken over Hamburg's main square. Kids ride atop vintage boats and fire trucks in a 1950s-era carousel, and a Japanese tourist, shivering beneath her fur hat, poses for a photo under the entry gate nearby.

Loeding leads me to a heated tent labeled "Kaethe Wohlfahrt," a leading Christmas store. There's a doorman for crowd control, and he hands us baskets in which to collect our purchases as he ushers us in. I feel like a bull in a china closet as my purse swings into a wall display and rattles the hundreds of small wooden and metal ornaments hanging there.

The Christmas markets are tchotchke central, to be sure, but this American tourist will be in the market for a warm scarf before she spends her euros on an apfelbrater. It's the food stalls that interest me the most, and there I am happy to part with my money.

One hut is devoted to all things marzipan. Nearby, roasted almonds coated with ginger and chocolate are proffered in colorful paper cones. Another stand is devoted to printen — gingerbread fingers that come in different varieties, including almond and chocolate. There are mushrooms sauteéing in giant pans; I gobble them up with a little wooden fork that threatens to get lost in a generous dollop of creamy garlic sauce. Bratwursts sizzle over open coals, and I can convince myself I'm still hungry. We even pass a Scandinavian section, with reindeer sausages from Norway.

Loeding and I stop for a sample of mohnkuchen, or poppy cake. "If you eat enough," he tells me, making a sign with his hand that is international for feeling buzzed, "it gives you a turn in your head, you can be sure."

From the looks of the ruddy-cheeked crowds at a nearby glüuehwein tent, there are plenty of heads spinning in the immediate vicinity. "The most important thing at the Christmas markets," Loeding confirms, "is the alcohol. People come here after work for a drink, or they come during lunch to have a sausage," said Loeding. "This is where the evening starts for many people during Christmastime." TERRY WARD (SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST)

for more ...

SUNDAY IN TRAVEL

Read more about Terry Ward's adventures in the Christmas markets in Germany and about how to visit the markets on your own.

IN The Washington Post

5 more reasons to read

THESE STORIES AND MORE **THIS SUNDAY**

Prophet and Loss

Our crack team of Sunday Source seers peers into the future and predicts that it definitely will come to pass. **SUNDAY SOURCE**

The Kid Tamer

Life was getting trickier for Sheila and Ernest Dixon and their three sons, and the couple thought the time was ripe to hire a family coach. **MAGAZINE**

Rich Get Richer

Will the economic crisis allow investors to finally get runaway executive compensation under control? Don't bet on it. **BUSINESS**

The Real Action

Before right- and left-wing politicos do combat on the Sunday morning talking head shows, they first meet in waiting rooms called greenrooms. That's where the sparks can really fly. **STYLE & ARTS**

Adopt the Cause

Stars of all stripes boost foster kids' dreams of finding a real home on CBS' annual "A Home for the Holidays." **TV WEEK**

NAVY FOOTBALL

Follow the leader: Navy's turning point for a winning season occurred last year — when it hired Ken Niumatalolo as its coach. | 16

Sports Weekend

AP

It's been that kind of year for QB Jason Campbell, seen here kneeling during the Redskins' loss to the Bengals. The Redskins have scored three touchdowns in three weeks.

Judgment Days

The final 2 games may determine Redskins' direction for the future

REDSKINS | This season will end one of two ways.

The Redskins (7-7) can win one or both of their last two games — against Philadelphia and San Francisco — while looking at least serviceable on both sides of the ball and go into the offseason knowing they were a few plays away from being a playoff team.

The second option will make most people at Redskins Park shudder.

If Washington were to lose this weekend at home against Philadelphia and then get taken out by a San Francisco squad that has no playoff aspirations, how would the season be judged?

It's a turning point that seemed unfathomable at the end of October, when the then-6-2 Redskins needed to play just .500 football down the stretch to make the playoffs for the second straight season.

But a losing record is bound to bring up questions about the direction of the team and, in turn, the future of its coach.

"These past few weeks, we haven't been playing up to par," Redskins defensive end Andre Carter said. "I think what you do the next two weeks ... reflects [onto] the following season."

With the playoffs appearing to be off the table, the final two games will be looked at largely as an evaluation tool for the next season. Who will play hard with nothing on the line? Which young players have made progress in the offense? Is the team better or worse than it was two months ago?

Coach Jim Zorn's hyperbole that he feels like "the worst coach in America" was certainly said out of frustration, but it's still a risky choice of words to put in the ear of Daniel Snyder, an owner who has had six head coaches since he purchased the club in 1999.

"I think that's just how he felt at the time. He knows he's not the worst coach in America," tailback Clinton Portis said. "Right now we're losing, so everybody feels bad."

"Anybody who's our leader, they would [say it's their fault]," receiver Santana Moss said. "But he's not catching any passes; he's not breaking any tackles." ERIC BRANDNER

THE GRASS REALLY IS GREENER

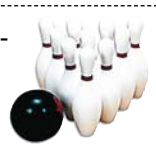
When the Redskins take the field Sunday, they'll look across the line of scrimmage and see the team they thought they were going to be.

➜ Philadelphia (8-5-1) could well be two wins away from taking a playoff spot, thanks to Donovan McNabb — who was benched a month ago — and a smothering defense that shut down the division-leading Giants two weeks ago. "They were down for a few weeks, but they've been able to use that [to motivate themselves]," Carter said. Now it's up to the Redskins to get motivated and play spoiler. E.B.

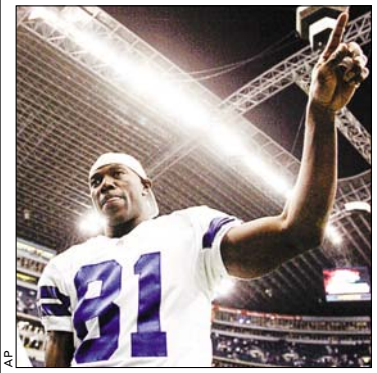
V

4:15 P.M. | FOX
Sunday

BOWLING | **Lightning Strikes Twice** Brothers Ed and Tom Shircel of Sheboygan, Wis., have combined for 10 perfect games in their bowling careers, and now they've reached another milestone: rolling perfect games while bowling together. Each rolled a 300 while bowling Monday night at Lakeshore Lanes for the same team and in the same game. Ed Shircel, 57, said it's tough to guess the odds of that happening. "Oh, boy, to get two brothers on the same team, then do that? Maybe a one in a million thing, I'm sure," he said. (AP)



TV Lineup



AP

How many times will T.O. complain about not getting the ball enough on Saturday?

friday

7 P.M. George Mason's men's basketball team plays for the first time in two weeks against Radford. MASN

7 P.M. The Wizards look to snap yet another losing streak when hosting the Philadelphia 76ers. CSN

saturday

11 A.M. The first game of the bowl season — and the first of four Saturday — is in D.C. and features a rematch between Navy and Wake Forest. ESPN

1 P.M. In what won't be much of a tune-up for Connecticut on Dec. 29, Georgetown's men's basketball team hosts Mount St. Mary's. MASN

1 P.M. The Washington Capitals visit the Philadelphia Flyers in a Saturday matinee. CSN

2 P.M. Some great college hoops games include Duke vs. Xavier, followed by Connecticut vs. Gonzaga. CBS

8:15 P.M. The Baltimore Ravens face the Dallas Cowboys in a game with playoff implications. NFL Network

sunday

1 P.M. The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Tennessee Titans play for home-field advantage in the AFC. CBS

4:15 P.M. The road team has won each of the past four game between the Eagles and Redskins. Fox

6 P.M. The Wizards host Dirk Nowitski and the Dallas Mavericks in an early evening affair. CSN

8:15 P.M. The Carolina Panthers visit the New York Giants with home-field advantage on the line in the NFC. NBC

Weekend | Sports

Sunday PICK'EM

	Matt Swenson SPORTS COLUMNIST, EXPRESS	Ian Herbert SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR, EXPRESS	Dan Steinberg D.C. SPORTS BOG, THE WASHINGTON POST	Dave Goldberg SPORTSWRITER, ASSOCIATED PRESS
EAGLES (MINUS 5) AT REDSKINS	**EAGLES** These are two teams headed in opposite directions.	**REDSKINS** With the Redskins, I feel like it's the opposite of what you expect.	**EAGLES** Tangled Redskins playoff scenarios finally unravel.	**EAGLES** It seems like centuries ago that the Redskins won in Philly.
RAVENS (PLUS 5) AT COWBOYS	**COWBOYS** Last game at Texas Stadium should be one Cowboys' fans celebrate.	**COWBOYS** They'll keep winning — until the playoffs.	**RAVENS** Unless Joe Flacco wants some private meetings	**RAVENS** This probably won't be quite as low scoring as the Steelers-Ravens game.
STEELERS (PLUS 1) AT TITANS	**STEELERS** The final score might be 3-2 on a last-second field goal by the Steelers.	**STEELERS** The Steelers can stop the run, which is all the Titans can do.	**STEELERS** The NFL is officially rigged in their favor.	**STEELERS** Can the Titans' O-line keep the pass rush off Kerry Collins?
PANTHERS (PLUS 3) AT GIANTS	**PANTHERS** Carolina looks like the most balanced team in the whole league.	**GIANTS** But the Panthers win in the NFC Championship game.	**PANTHERS** In honor of DeAngelo Williams' saving my fantasy team.	**PANTHERS** The Panthers are notably weaker on the road, but they cover the spread.
SAINTS (MINUS 6.5) AT LIONS	**LIONS** This is a winnable game for the Lions. Yes, you read that right.	**SAINTS** I wanted to pick the Lions, but you have to give them at least a 15-point spread.	**SAINTS** Call it the Paper Bag Bowl.	**LIONS** The Lions have been coming close, so it's tempting. Let's go with it.

SEASON TALLY: Matt Swenson: 44-36-4 (3-2-1); Ian Herbert: 31-59-4 (3-2-1); Dan Steinberg: 46-34-4 (1-4-1); Dave Goldberg: 43-37-4 (1-4-1)

All picks are against the spread. Get more NFL coverage and chime in with comments on the Sports Bog at Blog.washingtonpost.com/dcsportsbog.

Taylor Not Talking Retirement — Yet

REDSKINS | Jason Taylor talked for a few minutes about his future Thursday. He has had a difficult season in D.C. and is still bothered by the leg injury he suffered back in September. Taylor knows that with an $8.5 million salary for next season, only 1½ sacks and a roster that could use an infusion of young talent, this may have been a failed one-year experiment in Washington.

He considered retirement a year ago, before the Dolphins dealt him in July. For now, he's trying to focus on the final two games of the season.

"To be honest, my wife asked me the same question the other day [about the future], and I'm still engulfed in this season," Taylor said. "It's not a question that I have to answer right now, you know, to myself. I just haven't addressed it."

WASHINGTONPOST.COM

'Slingin' Sammy' Was Mr. Versatile

One of the greatest football players of all time dies at age 94

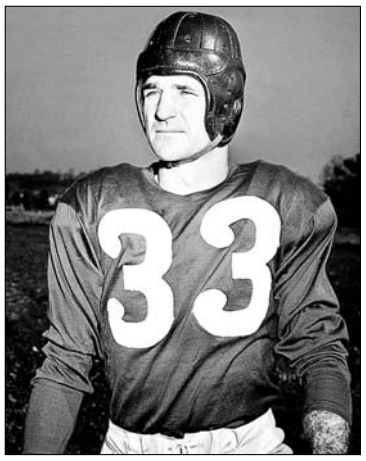
APPRECIATION | People never forgot Slingin' Sammy Baugh. Every day as many as four letters arrived at the West Texas ranch the pioneering quarterback called home.

Baugh, whose use of the forward pass took him to the Hall of Fame after a career with the Washington Redskins, died Wednesday night. He was 94.

The letters came from young and old. Some asked for an autograph from Baugh. But in the last several years of his life, he couldn't oblige them. His son David Baugh responded to each one, telling fans his father could no longer hold a pen.

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett even wrote to Baugh, and like so many others "just talked about how he was an inspiration in their lives," David Baugh told The Associated Press. "He did a lot of things pretty good, not just as an athlete. He was a good rancher, roper. He was a pretty good man."

After starring at TCU, "Slingin' Sammy" played with the Redskins from 1937 to 1952, leading them to the NFL title in his rookie season and again in 1942.



AP

Sammy Baugh played offense and defense, and punted for the Redskins.

Baugh was the best all-around player in an era when versatility was essential. In 1943, he led the league in passing, punting and interceptions. In one game, he threw four touchdowns and also intercepted four passes. He threw six touchdowns passes in a game twice. His 51.4-yard punting average in 1940 remains the NFL record.

"There's nobody any better than Sam Baugh was in pro football," Don Maynard, a fellow West Texas Hall of Famer who played for Baugh, said in a 2002 interview.

BETSY BLANEY (AP)

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE...

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EOE/AAP

Same Old Ovechkin

Capitals' star forward is ahead of his scoring pace from MVP year

CAPITALS | As the Capitals sit with a comfortable eight-point lead in the Southeast Division heading into Saturday night's matchup in Philadelphia, the question almost everybody wants the answer to is just how they've done it.

Considering the team hasn't been remotely close to healthy in more than a month, how is it that the Capitals have begun to not only widen their lead but also assert themselves as one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference?

Well, look no further than the league's reigning MVP, Alex Ovechkin. A year after a career-high 112-point season, the Russian sniper is already ahead of his pace from that award-winning campaign. His points are up, his assists are up, his shots on goal are up, and if it weren't for an unprecedented drought to start the year, his goal scoring would likely be right on pace with last season's level, too.

He's also had to deal with some emotional baggage, flying back to Russia to be with his ailing grandfather, missing two games earlier in the year. And yet, ask Ovechkin how he's done all this with a depleted team, and he merely shrugs off his performance, saying, "nothing's different" from a year ago.

LAWRENCE JACKSON/AP

Washington Capitals forward Alex Ovechkin takes a shot against the Boston Bruins. As hard as it is to imagine, Ovechkin's 2008-09 stats may surpass last season's.

The matter-of-factness with which he goes about his business is something even his most talented teammates have trouble fathoming.

"It's just amazing how he can do it every year," said defenseman Mike Green. "What he's done has just been incredible."

And there's no coincidence the Capitals' recent hot streak — the team has won six of its past seven games heading into Thursday night's contest against St. Louis — has Ovechkin's skate marks all over it.

Playing alongside Alexander Semin and Nicklas Backstrom, Ovechkin has 11 points in those seven games, including a game-winning overtime goal with 10 seconds remaining in Tuesday's game against the Islanders.

The Capitals thought they knew everything about their franchise player after watching him wow opponents for three seasons. It turns out they've learned no one does an encore like Ovechkin.

MARK GIANNOTTO

Late game: The Capitals-Blues game ended after Thursday's deadline. For results | **Today's Post, Sports**

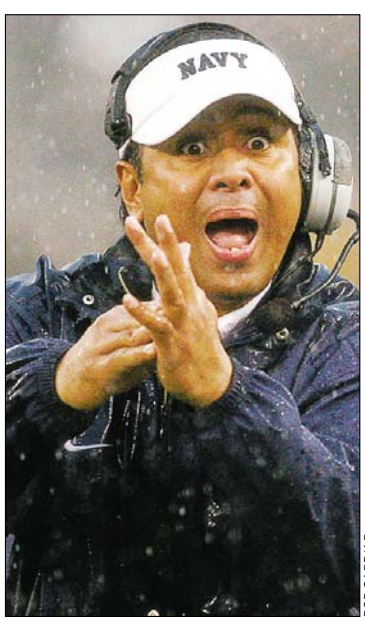
Smooth Sailing for the Midshipmen

By hiring from within, Navy laid groundwork to reach D.C.'s bowl

NAVY FOOTBALL | As the college football coaching hot stove heats up, with schools firing their leaders seemingly every day now, it's shocking that none has taken the lead of Navy football.

Last season, after former coach Paul Johnson and his 45-29 career record with the Midshipmen left for the greener pastures of Georgia Tech, Navy kept things simple. It hired from within, giving longtime assistant Ken Niumatalolo the reins of the program.

Eleven games later, Niumatalolo has become the winningest first-year coach in school history, going 8-4 while battling through a schedule that included seven bowl-eligible teams. On Saturday, the Midshipmen will look to leave another mark on the college football season, when they face Wake Forest in the first-ever EagleBank Bowl at RFK Stadium.



ROB CARR/AP

Ken Niumatalolo is the winningest first-year football coach ever at Navy.

"To watch the way Navy has played, I think that speaks volumes about [Niumatalolo]," Army coach Stan Brock said before Navy easily dispatched of the Scarlet Knights, 34-0, to close the season.

The Midshipmen's matchup with the Demon Deacons could be based almost entirely on the adjustments each team has made since the two faced off earlier this season. In late September, Navy shocked then-No. 16 Wake Forest, 24-17, causing six Demon Deacon turnovers in the process.

What doesn't bode well for Navy, though, is that Demon Deacon quarterback Riley Skinner, who had four interceptions in the teams' first meeting, threw just three picks in 11 other games this year.

But win or lose, the Midshipmen's smooth coaching transition serves as proof that sometimes the splashiest hire isn't necessarily the best hire. MARK GIANNOTTO

Read All About It

→ Dan Steinberg chronicles the entire experience of the inaugural EagleBank Bowl at RFK Stadium Saturday. Read the highlights of his adventures | **D.C. Sports Bog**

washingtonpost.com

Swengali

REDSKINS | BY MATT SWENSON

Casserly for GM Of the Redskins

WITH ALL THIS TALK of Jim Zorn's imminent — or not — firing, it occurs to me that a change may be needed higher up to fix the Redskins.

A team that virtually ignores the draft — and forgets it hasn't had a pass rush this decade — would be better off with a different decision maker. And while it may be easy to say Vinny Cerrato must go — doesn't that have a nice ring to it? — the search for a replacement could begin and end with one man.

He's the person who, in Houston, bypassed the obvious pick of Reggie Bush and went with Mario Williams with the No. 1 overall choice three years ago. And when he was in Washington previously, he fought the temptation to draft Ricky Williams and instead traded down and got Champ Bailey. Both look like great moves now.

> A team that virtually ignores the draft would be better off with a different decision maker.

Yes — Charlie Casserly is the right man for the job. Better yet, he's available (he currently works for CBS as an analyst). Growing up professionally during the Redskins' heyday, he knows the way to build a winner is through the draft and through shoring up both lines.

Cerrato has brought talent here, but the wrong kind. By relying on free agency and trades, there is a constant Band-Aid solution for the Redskins' biggest hole.

The defensive front is a constant problem; the offensive line is aging rapidly. That is where the center of Washington's offseason must be.

Casserly would know the right players to take. A return to the past might give the Redskins a steady hand for the future.

To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

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NICK WASS/AP

Mike James, left, and Danny Granger battle during the first quarter of the Wizards' 118-98 loss Dec. 15. The Pacers led by six at the end of the first quarter and 14 at the half.

Wizards Play From Behind

Team has trailed after 1st quarter in 17 of 23 games so far this year

WIZARDS | Ed Tapscott's not a prophet. He's just seen it too many times.

The ref tosses the ball in the air, and then the Wizards go up and down the court for 12 minutes and return to the bench at the end-of-the-quarter horn looking at another deficit.

Maybe they didn't shoot well. Maybe there was another defensive lapse. And there were probably some rebounding problems.

The Wizards' problems may be plentiful, but one of the areas Tapscott is focused on improving in the short term is the team's penchant for slow starts.

Washington, which hosts the Philadelphia 76ers Friday and the Dallas Mavericks Sunday, has trailed after the first quarter in 17 of its first 23 games.

"That's been the big problem for us, hitting those lulls and falling behind and having to dig out," Tapscott said.

Case in point: The Wizards were down six at home against Indiana at the end of the first quarter Monday night. Indiana extended the lead to 14 points at the half.

However, Washington put up 35 points in the third quarter, eventually bringing the sparse crowd to its feet when Caron Butler tied the game at 83 by hitting a 3-pointer with 55 seconds left in the quarter.

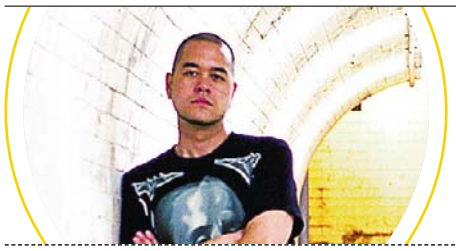
> "We've got to break that pattern. It's really hurting us."
>
> ED TAPSCOTT, WIZARDS HEAD COACH

But after an Indiana timeout, the Pacers scored on two drives to end the quarter and put in the first seven points in the fourth.

Deflated, the Wizards went on to lose by 20.

"That was digging out of a hole," Tapscott said. "And then two plays by them when they got layups sort of pricked the balloon and let all the air out.

"We've got to break that pattern. It's really hurting us." ERIC BRANDNER



DANCE PARTY

DJ-Palooza: Tittsworth, pictured, and Nadastrom are among the acts that will spin for the masses tonight at the 9:30 Club. | **18**

Entertainment Weekend

MERRICK MORTON/SONY PICTURES

MOTIVES IN QUESTION: Will Smith plays the knight in mysterious armor, and Rosario Dawson is the girl he's trying to save.

The Big Think

'Seven Pounds' takes its status as a brain teaser too seriously

FILM | "Seven Pounds" is a clever one, all right, but it might actually be too clever for its own good.

It stars Will Smith as the mysterious Ben Thomas, an IRS agent who drops in on random Los Angeles residents with financial trouble and analyzes whether they're good or bad. If they're good, they get the gift of his infinite generosity: a break on their debts, a little extra time to get their affairs in order and perhaps something even more life-altering if he deems them especially fit. (Giving away much more would deplete the film of its supposed poignancy.)

But Smith's demeanor is so eerily detached and even robotic at times, he makes you wonder whether Ben is functioning as a force of benevolence or evil — for all of two seconds, that is. Come on, this is Will Smith we're talking about here. Although he has acting chops that transcend his leading-man good looks and superstar charisma, he's never played anyone truly, deeply flawed.

Nevertheless, Gabriele Muccino (who directed Smith in the 2006 underdog tale "The Pursuit of Happyness") and writer Grant Nieporte jump all over the place in time, trying to keep us on our toes. With its many twists and revelations, "Seven Pounds" does make you work, which is vaguely refreshing when so much is so mindless.

For a long time, it leaves you wondering, for example, why Ben dresses unspectacularly and drives a junker car but lives in a rambling beachfront mansion in Malibu. At other points throughout the scattershot narrative, Ben emerges from the ocean with water dripping from his perfect six-pack abs, but he also makes a 911 call at the film's start to report his own imminent suicide. There are allusions to a violent car accident and a deadly jellyfish Ben keeps in a tank in his house

Intriguing? Sure. The filmmakers might have been on to something here, except the script seems so intentionally confusing, it's hard to feel engaged. Nieporte's story initiates and drops various subplot threads when it should have focused more on the unlikely relationship between Smith and Rosario Dawson. As one of the chief beneficiaries of Ben's kindness, Dawson's Emily Posa literally has a broken heart that he has plans to fix. Dawson is effortlessly lovely as always, and the warm scenes she shares with Smith suggest the kind of classic, tragic weepy film "Seven Pounds" could have been if it had shed its pretensions and stopped trying so hard to wow us with its complexity. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

A Year Late and a Rat Short

'Despereaux' lacks the flair of last year's stunner 'Ratatouille'

FILM | Which came first, the rat or the mouse?

It doesn't really matter. Even though Kate DiCamillo's book "The Tale of Despereaux" came out in 2003 — and won a Newbery Medal for outstanding children's literature — the animated film version still feels like a rip-off of "Ratatouille," which was only released last year.

That's partly because of the premise: It's a food-laden fairy tale about a rodent (voiced by Matthew Broderick) who must overcome his underdog status to save the day.

But the bigger problem is its lack of comparative charm. Whereas the gorgeous, sophisticated "Ratatouille" was both a crowd-pleaser and a critical favorite, "Despereaux" feels obvious and heavy-handed.

Roscuro the rat (voiced by Dustin Hoffman) accidentally falls into the queen's soup, killing her.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Despereaux is cute, but his movie is missing charm and, most of all, subtlety.

Roscuro is exiled for the act. But next comes Despereaux, a young mouse with giant ears. It's obvious from the day he's born that he will grow up to be fearless.

A voice-over comes from Sigourney Weaver, who's forced to spell out themes of courage, forgiveness and faith. Surely, children are astute enough to pick up these ideas without being banged over the head with a soup ladle. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Got Plans?

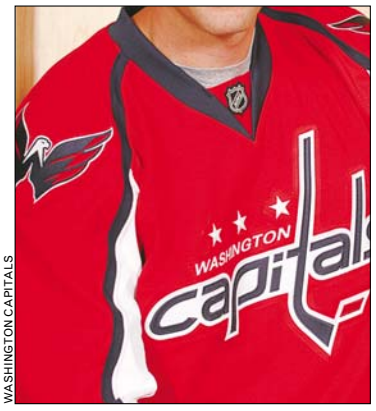
FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Where in the area could I find a place that sells Capitals gear/souvenirs for a gift for my boyfriend for Christmas?

Modell's generally has a lot of Caps gear. Or, another good bet is to go to the team's official store at Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Ballston. It's Metro-accessible, to boot.

➜ *Modell's, 7201 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 301-215-4670. (Bethesda)*

➜ *Kettler Capitals Iceplex, 627 N. Glebe Road, Arlington; 703-243-8855. (Ballston)*



WASHINGTON CAPITALS

Pay a visit to Kettler Capitals Iceplex and deck your man in hockey garb.

Friends are visiting Maryland and want me to pick a restaurant. Help!

As I mentioned last week, I'm a fan of Tako Grill. It's a sushi place, so it can be as cheap as you want it to be. If sushi won't fly with your crew, try Jaleo, Cafe Deluxe or the super-casual Mia's Pizzas. All are walkable from the Bethesda Metro.

➜ *Tako Grill, 7756 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 301-652-7030.*

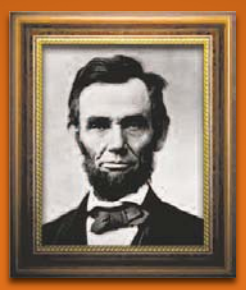
➜ *Jaleo, 7271 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda; 301-913-0003.*

➜ *Cafe Deluxe, 4910 Elm St., Bethesda; 301-656-3131.*

➜ *Mia's Pizzas, 4926 Cordell Ave., Bethesda; 301-718-6427.*

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | **washingtonpost.com/liveonline**

Madam C.J. Walker
Entrepreneur
(1867-1919)



Abraham Lincoln
16th President
(1809-1865)

Sara Jones
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(Present day)

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Weekend | Entertainment

MARK FINKENSTAEDT/FTWP

Will Eastman, above, is hosting Tittsworth and many others at the 9:30 Club tonight.

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

In a time of recession, some of you may be looking to get into some holiday excess. That jibes with the fact that Will Eastman is all about doing things increasingly bigger. He's teaming his Blisspop brand with Brightest Young Things to take over the **9:30 CLUB** tonight for a holiday party helmed by Nadastrom and Tittsworth, two of the hottest purveyors of dance-floor filth on the circuit today. The title of Nadastrom's newest record can't even be printed here, but the formula is remix concepts that build into frenzied party workouts. The DJ-producer team of Dave Nada and Matt Nordstrom shares a strain of Baltimore club DNA with international party titan Tittsworth, who got his start on the drum 'n' bass scene that Bob Jong Ill and Ken Lazee will be repping hard for at tonight's bash.

"Do They Know it's Christmas?" The Legwarmers certainly do. Everyone's favorite '80s headbanded-and-fright-wigged cover band is back at **THE STATE THEATRE** for its annual holiday show. You can expect to hear Band-Aid and, hopefully, "Christmas Wrapping," see more neon and spandex then you ever wanted (in the crowd) and sing along to hair metal and cheesy pop until your throat is hoarse. One of the more ridiculously fun and festive nights out you'll have this season. (There's a reason the band's New Year's Eve show at the same venue is sold out.) Tickets are $16 and will sell out in advance.

SATURDAY

Talk about cultural impact: "Seinfeld" has been off the air for more than a decade, and bars are still throwing Festivus parties. Saturday night's celebration at **TONIC** will have everything you need: a Festivus pole, the airing of grievances (over a microphone at the bar) and feats of strength. Get your spirits up with $4 shooters. The party starts around 9 p.m.

SUNDAY

This is a sad one. If you have ever been a supporter of local music, you've never been as big a supporter as Nan Irick was. If there was a show featuring a bunch of local bands, you could count on seeing the Arlington resident there. And she took her enthusiasm to the next level by helping set up shows and writing about the local scene in OnTap. It's not like she was trying to be a scenester; she was just someone who genuinely loved local music. Irick, 52, died of cardiac arrest in October. It really is a crushing loss for the local scene, as Irick was a kind of mother figure for many of the young bands in the area. A bunch of them will play a show in her memory Sunday night at **IOTA**. Some of her favorite bands — Middle Distance Runner, Greenland, the Cassettes and Revival — are on the bill.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at washingtonpost.com/gog

Entertainment | Weekend

ANDREW SCHWARTZ/MIRAMAX FILM CORP.

PIETY BECOMES HER: Meryl Streep plays a sister on a mission in "Doubt."

Now Playing

AUSTRALIA (PG-13, 155 minutes) A wildly ambitious, luridly indulgent spectacle of romance, action, melodrama and historic revisionism, the film is windy, overblown, utterly preposterous and insanely entertaining. Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman) is being driven across Faraway Downs by a mysterious, cynical cattle hand simply named the Drover (Hugh Jackman). Upon arriving at her husband's battered farmhouse near Darwin, Lady Sarah discovers that he has been killed. Even as he wraps his country in an adulatory glow, director Baz Luhrmann reserves the right to find fault, especially in the government's historic oppression of Australia's indigenous people. (AH)

BODY OF LIES (R, 128 minutes) With its urgent post-9/11 context and often brutal violence, it seems off-key to describe this film as a nifty political thriller, but that's what it is. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Roger Ferris, a crackerjack CIA operative stationed in the Middle East whose handler, Ed Hoffman (Russell Crowe), backs him up from Langley by way of a secure phone and all-knowing satellite camera. Ridley Scott's film clicks along at an engaging pace, legibly limning its multitude of characters and even throwing in a good bit of wry humor. DiCaprio, however, seems off his game. (AH)

BOLT (PG, 95 minutes) As sprightly and determined as its fuzzy, yappy lead, this new Disney animated film works hard to be all things to all people, with mixed results. The story of Bolt, a TV-star pooch (voiced by John Travolta) who's accidentally mailed from Los Angeles to New York, the movie follows our hero (plus a cat and a daft hamster) across America in search of his owner and co-star, Penny (Miley Cyrus). DAN KOIS

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13, 93 minutes) The Berlin of director Mark Herman's film unrolls as an as-yet-unbombed 1940s stronghold of Teutonic family values, blinkered Germans and plummy-accented, English-speaking Nazis. Few characters in film have been as relatively privileged, as morally conflicted and as willing to ignore it as Father (David Thewlis), the SS officer whose promotion will relocate him and his family from cosmopolitan Germany to the stark deathscape of a Nazi work camp. Bruno (Asa Butterfield), the young son of this benighted family, will befriend an inmate his age named Shmuel (Jack Scanlon), hence the title and leaden symbolism of this adaptation of John Boyne's novel. The film asks the metaphysical question of what life would be like for the family of a concentration camp commandant, in yet another attempt to revisit a sorrowful event in history that should never be forgotten or used for entertainment. (JA)

CADILLAC RECORDS (R, 109 minutes) There's a teeny little hole in the middle of this film, and it's right where you'll find Leonard Chess (Adrien Brody). As the founder of Chess Records, he champions the work of guitarist Muddy Waters (Jeffrey Wright), singer Etta James (Beyoncé Knowles), harmonica player Little Walter (Columbus Short), growling vocalist Howlin' Wolf (Eamonn Walker), the duckwalking Chuck Berry (Mos Def) and others, creating previously unheard-of opportunities for black artists. But we're never given much insight into who Chess really is or why we should care about him. History is propelled forward by the film's over-reliance on such now-stale staples of musical biopics as the montage of nightclub marquees and ka-ching-ing cash registers, leaving little time in this speeding, noisy, overcrowded vehicle to take in anything other than the milestones that go whizzing past. (MO)

CHANGELING (R, 140 minutes) Angelina Jolie's star is apparently so incandescent that it blinded Clint Eastwood to the story mechanics that have made his films so sound. It is 1928, and Jolie's character, Christine Collins, is a Pacific Telephone & Telegraph employee in Los Angeles. One day, she finds that her young son, Walter (Gattlin Griffith), is gone. Months later, the kid is returned to Collins. Case closed. Public happy. Except that the boy isn't her son. And for insisting that this is so, Collins is committed to an insane asylum. (JA)

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13, 103 minutes) Although this remake, which stars Keanu Reeves, is likely to make audiences pine for the meta-irony of "Mystery Science Theater 3000," it's not a complete failure. Reeves is uniquely well suited for the role of Klaatu, the alien life form that warns Earthlings of the coming apocalypse unless they change their ways. Helping him is astrobiologist Helen Benson (Jennifer Connelly), whose young stepson, Jacob (Jaden Smith), thinks Klaatu is the enemy. The real star of both versions of the movie, a robot named Gort, has been confiscated after trying to save Klaatu's life. The big bells and whistles don't make their presence known until the last half-hour of the film, when a swarm of malignant metallic locusts descends upon the Earth. Solemn, sober and efficient, the film gets the job done and moves on. (AH)

DOUBT (PG-13, 104 minutes) Meryl Streep brings her characteristic focus and wily craft to Sister Aloysius, the steely principal of a Catholic school in the Bronx, circa 1964. When a charismatic young priest named Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman) shows an interest in the newly integrated school's only black student, Sister Aloysius begins to entertain suspicions about the priest's motives. But the story comes to be about much more than just Father Flynn's guilt or inno-

Continued on page 20

Weekend | Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 19

cence: power, spiritual discipline, institutional politics and corrupt hierarchical rot. Just when you begin to think you know who the cat and mouse really are, in steps Viola Davis to steal not just her scene but the entire movie from Streep. As the mother of the student in question, Davis presents "Doubt" with its most sobering and finally haunting philosophical quandaries, which give even the implacable Sister Aloysius a glimpse of life beyond her own unassailable ideals. (AH)

FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13, 82 minutes) There's a good movie buried here, underneath the layers of baloney and ham, but we never get much of a taste. Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn play San Francisco lovebirds who avoid Christmas with their divorced parents by planning vacations disguised as volunteer expeditions. But this year, a thick fog grounds all the flights. Before Christmas Day is out, the pair has to make four separate stops, one for each divorced parent. Vaughn and Witherspoon, both peppy and likable, have before them four scenarios in which to preen, riff, jab and yuk-yuk. Unfortunately, the actors are nothing but fancy window dressing in this movie, which rushes from scene to scene before bad gags have time to land their bad punch lines. DAN ZAK

FROST/NIXON (R, 122 minutes) You expect something dry, historical and probably contrived here. But you get a delicious contest of wits, brilliant acting and a surprisingly gripping narrative — no less dramatic even though the results are a foregone conclusion. British journalist David Frost was deemed a lightweight and bet his future career on a blockbuster television special. Former president Richard Nixon wanted rehabilitation and gambled that Frost would lob him softballs. As Nixon, Frank Langella is perfection. The character is generated from the inside out, not predicated on surface imitation or caricature. Frost is portrayed by Michael Sheen as a shallow playboy with a profound hollowness in his ambitious soul. The writing is so good, the acting so powerful, that the film goes well beyond the courtroom drama into the territory of the classic history play. It isn't Shakespeare, but it is drama at a level one doesn't often get in movies. PHILIP KENNICOTT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R, 118 minutes) British actress Sally Hawkins delivers a nervy, utterly captivating tour de force performance in Mike Leigh's transporting new film. Hawkins plays Poppy, a London schoolteacher with an indomi-

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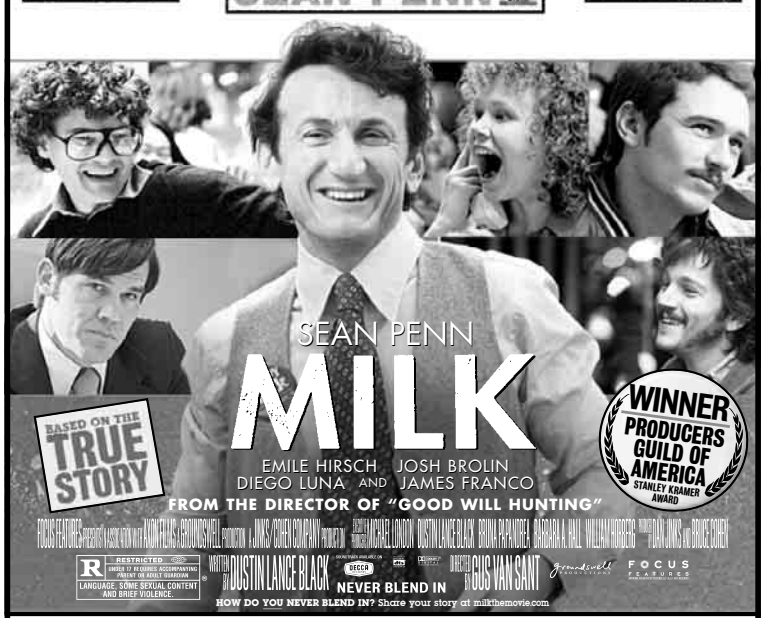

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table spirit and persistently cheerful outlook on life, even when the bowl of cherries winds up being full of pits. Viewers may find themselves holding their collective breath, waiting for the inevitable shoe to drop on Poppy's indefatigable optimism. No spoilers here, except to say that the film won't break your heart — it will make it soar. (AH)

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR (G, 110 minutes) With exuberant and terrifically -danced choreography, catchy soft-rock songs and a likable cast that doesn't look too impossibly perfect, this first feature film in the series that began on Disney cable TV ought to delight fans. In this G-rated world, teens are drug-free and chaste, and they never swear. Zac Efron will again set hearts aflutter as Troy, a high school basketball star and ace singer/actor/songwriter. His girlfriend, Gabriella (Vanessa Anne Hudgens), already knows she's headed to Stanford. (JANE HORWITZ)

I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13, 117 minutes) It isn't very long before you're able to figure out what's eating Juliette (Kristin Scott Thomas), the haunted heroine who's reunited with little sister Léa (Elsa Zylberstein) after a 15-year separation in this film. Turns out that Juliette hasn't been away on a trip, as Léa tells her two young daughters, but in prison. The shameful reason why — and another, even more deeply buried secret — unspool with deliberate mystery in French writer-director Philippe Claudel's exquisitely rendered story of reconciliation and redemption. The dynamic between Juliette and Léa, who never visited her sister in prison, is the most fraught. And, in the hands of Scott Thomas and Zylberstein, the most rewarding to watch. Their characters' desire — no, need — to repair their fragile bond feels as achingly real as the mother lode of hidden pain that gets exposed by the work of these two great actresses. (MO)

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG, 89 minutes) Visually captivating, this sequel to the 2005 hit about zoo animals on the lam suffers from a plethora of subplots and suggestive humor aimed at viewers in the upper range of its PG-rated demographic. This is, after all, a movie that opens with a shamelessly crowd-pleasing shot of four boogieing animal tushies. Those ample posteriors belong to Alex the lion (Ben Stiller), Marty the zebra (Chris Rock), Melman the giraffe (David Schwimmer) and Gloria the hippo (Jada Pinkett Smith), who are on their way back home to the Central Park Zoo when their plane crashes into the African veld. (AH)

MILK (R, 128 minutes) Gus Van Sant has painted a vivid, affecting portrait of Harvey Milk, who in 1978 joined the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as the first openly gay man to be elected to American public office in the United States. Sean Penn virtually disappears into his character, burying any trace of native mannerism or accent and emerging as a wholly convincing New York Jewish boy made good. What makes the film extraordinary isn't just that it's a nuanced, stirring portrait of one of the 20th century's most pivotal figures, but that it's also a nuanced, stirring portrait of the thousands of people he energized. Van Sant shifts his focus throughout the film from Harvey himself to the movement he so ingeniously led. (AH)

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13, 99 minutes) Lifting several pages from the Tyler Perry playbook, the film tells a familiar story of a Puerto Rican American family in Chicago that sorts out domestic problems over Christmas. Anna (Elizabeth Peña) and Edy Rodriguez (Alfred Molina) are ready to welcome their three grown children home. Jesse (Freddy Rodríguez) is coming back from a tour of duty in Iraq. Mauricio (John Leguizamo) and his wife, Sarah (Debra Messing), are in from their high-powered New York jobs. Rox (Vanessa Ferlito) is a struggling actress in Los Angeles. The script by Rick Najera and Alison Swan is unfocused and flabby with several relatively pointless scenes that are ended by convenient cell phone calls. The ensemble cast boasts some of the finest actors in the business. They do their best to breathe life into the stereotypes, but they simply don't have enough to work with. MIKE MAYO

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13, 106 minutes) In his breakout 2006 performance as 007 in "Casino Royale," Daniel Craig proved an able successor to the man

Continued on page 22

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Continued from page 21

who defined the role, Sean Connery. In its sequel, all the dash and elan of that film has been leached out, leaving Bond little more than a serial killer with Bombay Sapphire eyes and a good tux. Gone are the lush locales, libidinous sex scenes and playful puns. Gone, indeed, is all the fun. Adding insult to injury, they justify the whole enterprise in a ludicrous environmental cautionary tale about corporate control of water. Thank heaven for Judi Dench, whose M provides the film its sole quantum of peppery brio. (AH)

RALPH NELSON

FIRESIDE CHAT: Michael Sheen and Frank Langella star in the film "Frost/Nixon."

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R, 113 minutes) The bravura way director Jonathan Demme juggles the hurly-burly of an upscale wedding — made hurlier and burlier by the arrival, straight from rehab, of the title character's (Rosemarie DeWitt) high-maintenance sister Kym (Anne Hathaway, like you've never seen her) — harkens back to the darkness and emotional complexity of "The Silence of the Lambs" and the madcap energy of "Something Wild." There's a dark secret, too, but its lurking presence never feels cheap or forced. (MO)

ROLE MODELS (R, 99 minutes) Danny and Wheeler tool around Los Angeles,

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in a monster truck that snorts fire, peddling an energy drink called Minotaur to schoolkids, as if it's an anti-drug alternative. Danny, bored with it all and losing his girlfriend, drives the truck into a statue of a horse. Such is the beginning of the film in which Danny (Paul Rudd) and Wheeler (Seann William Scott) are ordered to complete 150 hours of community service mentoring troubled teens — or go to jail. Danny hooks up with Augie (Christopher Mintz-Plasse), a stereotypical dweebish white kid who wears a cape and is absorbed in role-playing games. Wheeler gets Ronnie (Bobb'e J. Thompson), a stereotypical black kid with a bad attitude and a potty mouth. (NT)

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R, 121 minutes) The resourceful, unerringly grounded title character is Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), a lanky kid from the Mumbai slums whom we meet just after he wins 10 million rupees on India's own version of the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" TV show. Accused of cheating, Jamal is taken into custody by the Mumbai police, and he proceeds to tell them his story, a tale of one boy's decidedly unsentimental education by way of poverty, tribal strife, abandonment, exploitation, criminal gangs and star-crossed love. Director Danny Boyle has clearly found inspiration in the geography and textures of modern-day India, though with its stock characters and often outlandishly contrived plot, the film could easily be relegated to the category of cinematic stunt. But even at its most superficial, this chai-fueled fable retains its appeal, largely because of Boyle's fluency with the medium he so obviously loves. (AH)

TWILIGHT (PG-13, 120 minutes) It's easy to understand the tween- and teen-centric fascination with this film based on Stephenie Meyer's best-selling novel about the romance between a high school girl and a vampire. The love between 17-year-old Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and her strangely pale lab partner, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), is as chaste as the relationship between any adolescent girl and, say, her Joe Jonas poster. That's because Edward, as part of a coven of self-proclaimed "vegetarian" vampires, refuses to drink human blood. Edward knows that if things were to get too hot with Bella, it might end badly for her. Lust is the elephant in the room here, and it's what gives the film its decidedly grown-up bite. That and director Catherine Hardwicke's wry humor. (MO)

ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORNO (R, 102 minutes) You'll look at this story of a bone-cold winter in Pittsburgh, where a schlub named Zack (Seth Rogen) has a lifelong babe of a friend and roommate named Miri (Elizabeth Banks), and wonder why this nice girl isn't somewhere else. Times are hard. So, Miri agrees to have sex on tape with Zack to gin up some cash. Despite the crude humor and standard plot, you will laugh out loud, perhaps because everyone on screen seems to be having so much fun. (NT)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S **JOHN ANDERSON, ANN HORNADAY, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN** AND **NEELY TUCKER**. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE **WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT**

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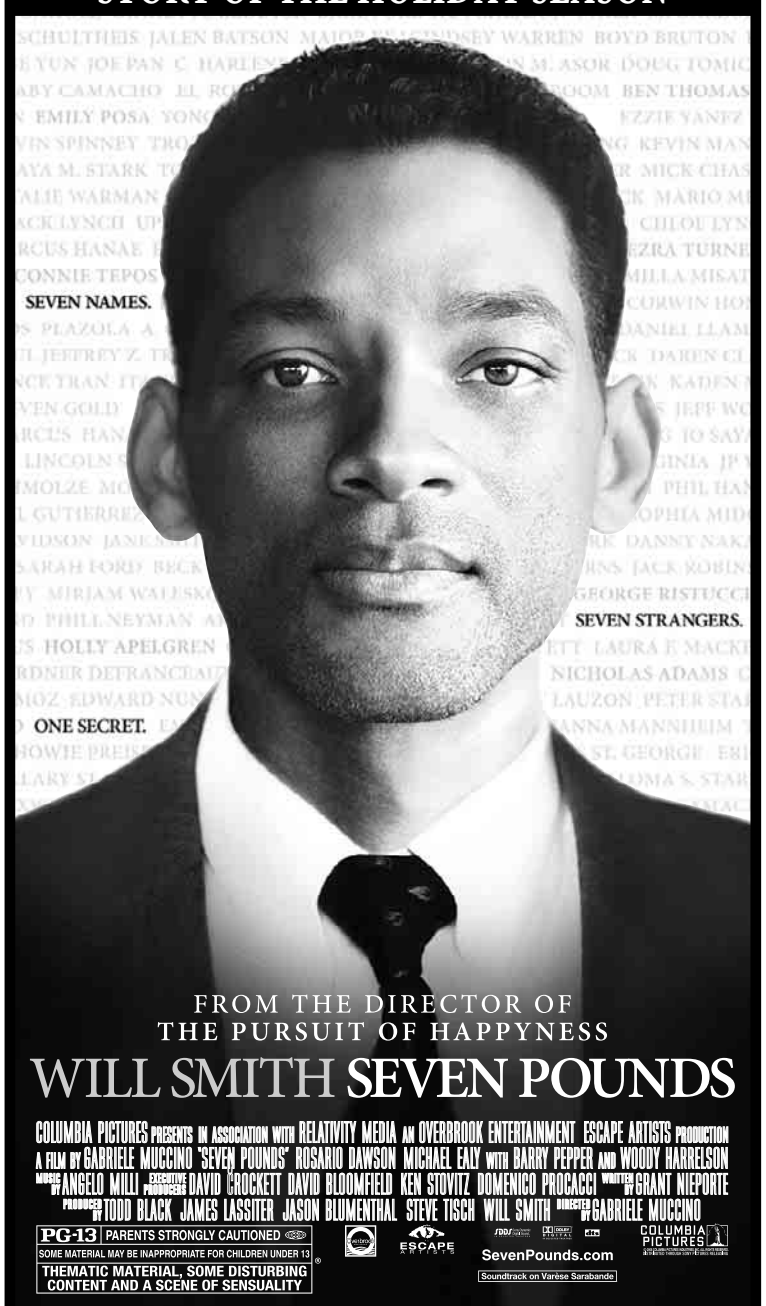

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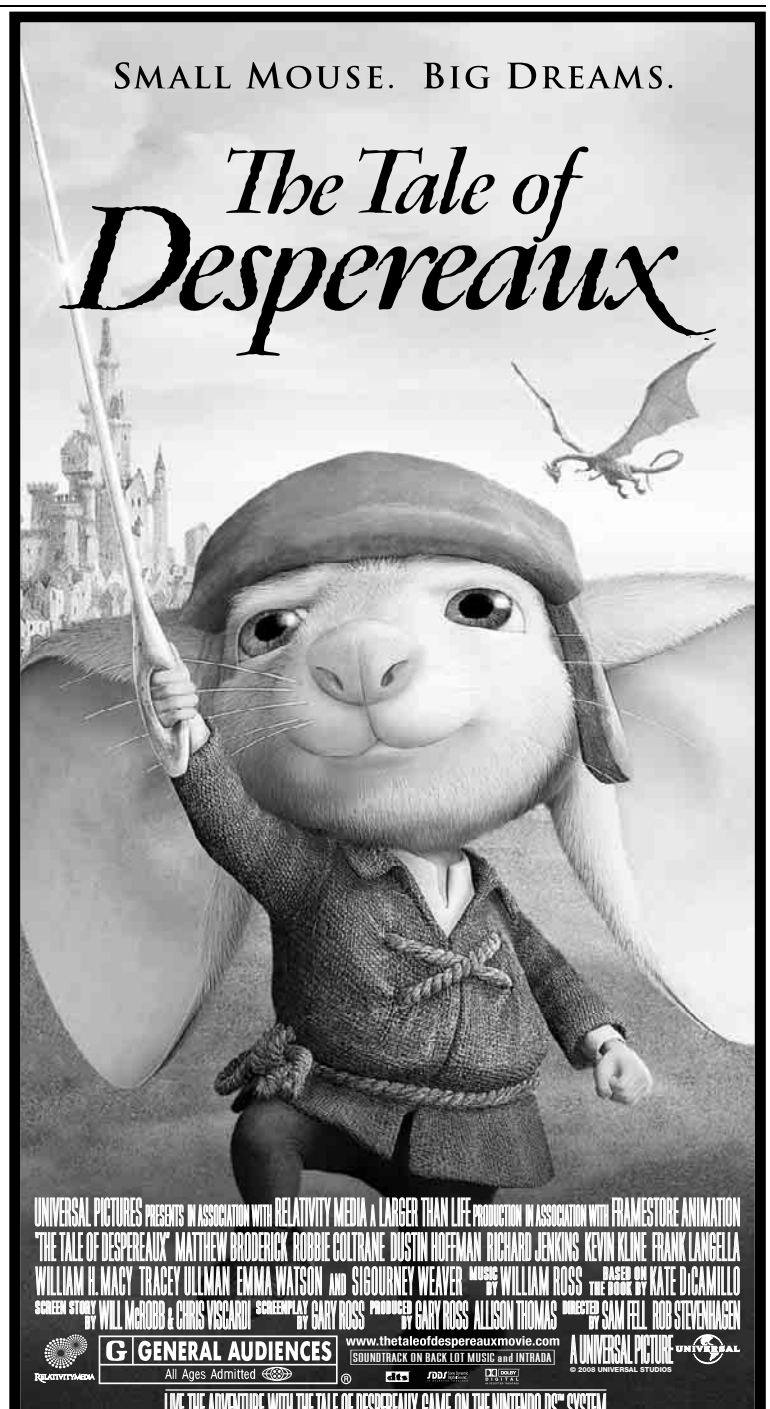

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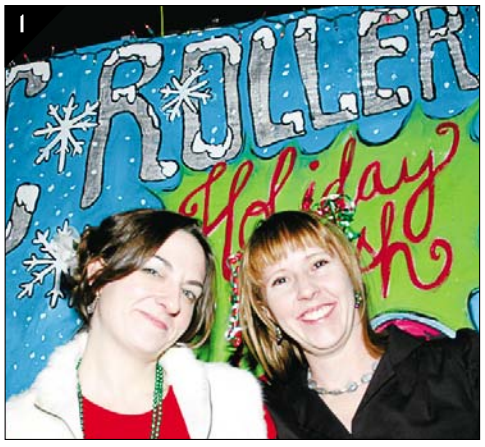

Q Hey, Roller Girls, who did you last fight?

ROCK AND ROLL HOTEL | DEC. 14

1. "My landlord," Camille Morin with Stephanie Kavanugh. **2. "My shower,"** Kali Schumitz with Andy Burke, aka Refsputin. **3. "A chick,"** Melissa Mitravich, left with Angela Wall, aka Condoleezza Slice. **4. "Bath and Body Works,"** Chris Hwang, right, with Zimmy Hwang. **5. "A Baltimorian,"** Matt Beatty with Kristen Clark. **6. "You,"** Bridget Commiskey with Dana Fikes. ROBYN MINCHER

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5 Ghosts of Christmas Comedy

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➜ *EatBar, 2761 Washington Blvd., Arlington; Sun., 8 p.m., free; 703-778-9951.*

3 First of Eight Candles

Did you think the National Christmas Tree stood alone on the Ellipse? Nope. You can also see the National Menorah and the National Yule Log. And neither is nearly as ugly as the National Christmas Tree, which always looks like Martha Stewart drank too much neon nog and threw up on the White House lawn. Anyway, Hanukkah begins on Monday, so the first candle on the National Menorah will be lit Sunday night. Attendees must order tickets to the lighting. F.Z.

➜ *The Ellipse, 1600 Constitution Ave. NW; Sun., 4 p.m., free but tickets are required; 202-332-5600. (Federal Triangle)*

top stops WEEKEND

1 The Brits Invade, Part 2

In 1964, the Beatles, still mop-topped, sweet and silly, came to the U.S. and changed pop-rock forever. And here they come again: the Fab Four of "A Hard Day's Night," the Mancunians before they became bearded, meditative and more popular than Jesus. OK, it's not really John, Paul, George and Ringo. It's "1964: The Tribute," a Beatles cover band that helps us remember what was best about the band, though it's unlikely to inspire the same screaming, sobbing devotion. You're not 15 years old anymore, after all. If you were even alive then. F.Z.

➜ *Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave.; Sat., 7:30 p.m., $35; 703-549-7500.*

MICHAEL TEMCHINE/FTWP

2 Dance, Release

Nothing says "It's the holiday season!" quite like a wild trance dance party! Or not. But, hey, if you want to get your groove on before next week's extended family time, this might be the Saturday to check out Glow. This week's talent is BT, a digital songwriter and master of his craft. Release stress before you get to tell Nana that your roommate and your boyfriend are the same person. K.E.

➜ *Fur Night Club, 33 Patterson St. NE; Saturdays, 10 p.m., $15-$20; 202-842-3401. (New York Ave)*

COMPILED BY Express' Karmah Elmusa and Fiona Zublin. Read more of their picks every day — and for what's coming up this weekend — at **Expressnightout.com/topstops.**

dine&dash

OLIVIA BOINET

A Teahouse for Glover Park, Too

THE LAST TIME this column stopped by Glover Park, it was to have a bite at Surfside (2444 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-0004), the new Cali-Mex hot spot. Since then, Busara and Margarita's have closed, and Gin & Tonic (2408 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-3114) has opened, as has a Z Burger (2414 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-965-7777) right next to it.

Also fairly new to the GP scene is Breadsoda (2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-7445), where you can satisfy your hunger for sandwiches, beer, Wii and billiards.

But a less-talked-about joint has also sprung up in what has become a destination neighborhood for eats — it's right next to the entrance of the well-established Heritage India (both at 2400 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202 -333-3120). Shanghai Teahouse (202-338-3815) is a tiny, unassuming restaurant with dumplings so good it's worth visiting even though it doesn't yet have a liquor license.

The dumpling list is forgiving — it's hard to order wrong. You can have them fried or boiled, with lamb or vegetables, and they're always substantial, texturally perfect and light on the grease. The restaurant also serves a number of other Chinese specialties, including salmon with black bean sauce, fried rice and a General Tsao's chicken that will put your delivery place to shame. After dinner, try a green tea or herbal infusion. Or, do as we do and hit Max's Best Ice Cream (2416 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-3111) for dessert. KARMAH ELMUSA (EXPRESS)

@ Dine & Dash has more on local eats at **Expressnightout.com/dine**

Television

SINGLE ENTENDRE: HBO has picked up the dark comedy pilot "Hung," starring Thomas Jane, for a series, with hopes of launching it in June. He plays Ray, a well-endowed struggling high school basketball coach who figures out a way to use his best asset.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

TEEN BEAT

"True Hollywood Story" (9 p.m., E!, Fri.) spends two solid hours on **YOUNG HOLLYWOOD: FROM A TO ZAC**, a gushing group profile of Taylor Swift, Zac Efron, Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers. Superstars before they could drive, these prodigies all displayed early talent for stage parents armed with video cameras.

SAVE WILLY!

WHALE WARS (9 p.m., Animal Planet, Fri.) concludes its season.

IN-LAWS COMING?

A so-called expert (Barbara Stanwyck) on the domestic arts is forced to entertain for the holidays in the 1945 comedy **CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTICUT** (10 p.m., TCM, Fri.).

FESTIVUS FESTIVAL

Jerry Seinfeld and Leona Lewis appear on **LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN** (11:35 p.m., CBS).

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Don't miss the Jonas Brothers on E! tonight. You won't — there's nothing else on.

VERY TAME DANCING

Patrick Swayze stars in **CHRISTMAS IN WONDERLAND** (8 p.m., Family, Sat.) as Wayne Saunders, the down-on-his-luck father of a recently uprooted family. Trying to make the best of a low-budget holiday, he takes the kids to the mall to buy some last-minute gifts and wrapping paper. Fortune smiles when the kids happen upon a bag filled with cash.

BIG LITTLE GUY

Will Ferrell stars in the 2003 holiday comedy **ELF** (8 p.m., CBS, Sat.).

SEASON OF SHARING

Friday and Crusoe celebrate a tribal ritual on **CRUSOE** (8 p.m., NBC, Sat.).

CANNED CHRISTMAS LAUGHTER

TV Land offers a merry-thon of Christmas-themed sitcom episodes, from a holiday **MURPHY BROWN** (8 a.m., Sun.) to an **ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW** (7:30 p.m.) take on **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** from 1960.

CLASSIC CHUCKLES

Martin Short, Steve Martin and Chevy Chase star in the 1986 cowboy musical send-up **THREE AMIGOS** (8 p.m., CW, Sun.).

JUST ONE LOOK

IN THE WOMB: IDENTICAL TWINS (9 p.m., National Geographic, Sun.) examines the emerging science about these most basic of human "clones." The study of twins has added much to the debate over nature versus nurture.

TAMMIE AROYO/AP

Patrick Swayze stars in "Christmas in Wonderland" Saturday on Family.

HOLIDAY BUMMER

THE SHIFT (10 p.m., ID, Investigation Discovery, Sun.) will present six episodes about a homicide squad in Indianapolis with a sterling reputation for catching murderers. Investigation Discovery is the network formerly known as Discovery Times. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1100 150 410) 700 940
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) 1020 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1200 230 500) 750 1010
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1000 1250 330) 650 1015
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THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1205 140 240 410 500 530) 640 735 810 910 1010 1040
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) 900 PM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (150 440) 750 1035
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OC: FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1240 PM)
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (200 PM)
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (300 510) 740 1005
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (110 355) 730 1020
BOLT (PG) (1155 220 445) 705 930
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RW: NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1250 305 545) 810 1040
MILK (R) - ID REQ'D (115 410) 700 950
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (220 445) 725 1030
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) 735 PM 955 PM
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1210 345) 710 1035
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1235 315 540) 755 1025
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1155 240 535) 820 1105
BOLT (PG) (1145 210 435) 655 920
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1150 225 455) 730 1005
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D 1050 PM
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YES MAN (PG-13) ★ (1230 100 310 340 535) 705 800 940 1030
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ★ (1200 1235 215 250 430 505) 645 720 900
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1210 235 435 500) 655 725 920 950
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1250 315 540) 805 1035
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1255 320 545) 810 1040
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 345) 730 1025
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) 735 PM 955 PM
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (105 PM)
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1225 240 450) 650 1000
BOLT (PG) (1205 225 445) 710 930
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D 935 PM
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1240 PM 245 PM 510 PM)

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SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13) ★ (1100 200 500) 745 1030
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ★ (1200 215 430) 645 900
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1130 1215 205 245 430 515) 700 745 930 1010
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (100 PM) 1020 PM
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (330 PM) 700 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1220 240 510) 730 950
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SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13) ★ (1100 1145 145 245 445 530) 745 830 1045 1115
YES MAN (PG-13) ★ (1200 1245 230 315 500 545) 730 815 1015 1100
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1130 1230 200 300 400 430 530) 630 715 800 900 945 1030
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1215 300 515) 800 1030
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 245 515) 745 1015
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THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ★ (1000 1210 225) 450 710 920 1140
OC & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ 120 PM
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1050 1250) 340 415 620 700 900 1000 1145 1235
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1015) 530 820 1040
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 235) 510 750 1020
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (140 PM)
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1045 100) 315 530 800 1010 1220
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1025 110) 350 640 940 1230
BOLT 3D -$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (1130 200 445) 720 950
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1220 300) 540 810 1035

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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 730 1030
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (215 510) 750 1035
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13) 950 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (120 220 400 500) 620 720 840 940
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (300 PM) 640 PM
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (140 PM) 740 PM 1040 PM
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (100 400) 700 1000
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG-13) (110 340) 610 835
ROLE MODELS (R) - ID REQ'D (250 525) 800 1035
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YES MAN (PG-13) ★ (1135 105 210 340 445) 630 800 900 1035
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ★ (1030 1125 1245 150 300 415 515) 640 730 945
RW & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1050 125 405) 700 935
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1150 1255 235 325 505) 615 750 850 1020
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1130 205 425) 650 915
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 145 435) 725 1010
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (100 335) 735 1025
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) 855 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1220 245 500) 715 930
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1240 330) 635 925
BOLT (PG) (1200 225 450) 710 940
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (410 PM) 645 PM 920 PM
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1140 AM 155 PM)

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YES MAN (PG-13) ★ (1100 1150 1240 130 220 310 400 450 540) 630 720 810 900 950
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ★ (1040 1140 100 210 340 430) 620 710 840
OC & DA: THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (140 PM)
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1015 1110 1210 1250 230 320 350 440 520) 610 650 740 820 850 930 1010
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (1050 115 405) 635 910
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1020 110 425) 725 1025
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 300) 615 855
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1000 1220 240 500) 700 750 920 1000
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) 935 PM
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1200 PM 410 PM) 800 PM
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1235 345) 705 955
BOLT 3D -$2.50 CHARGE FOR 3D (PG) ★ (1030 1255 325) 645 915
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) (1155 225 505) 745 1030
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA (PG) (1135 AM 150 PM 445 PM)

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SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13) ★ (1245 330) 615 945
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1230 100 200 315 415 515 545) 645 745 830 930 1015
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (110 210 320 420) 610 710 820 920 1030
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CADILLAC RECORDS (R) - ID REQ'D (150 430) 725 1000
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) - ID REQ'D 1020 PM
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (230 450) 730 945
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (105 405) 705 1035
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SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13) ★ (1245 400) 730 1030
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13) ★ (1030 1130 1230 130 230 315 415 500 545) 645 745 830 915 1015 1100
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13) (150 515) 750 1020
AUSTRALIA (PG-13) (1010 210) 610 940
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13) (1000 1215 300) 600 815
TWILIGHT (PG-13) (1140 240) 620 910
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QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13) 845 PM
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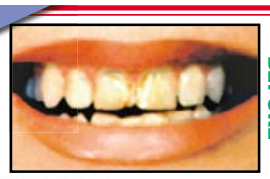

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THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)
(!) 11:30, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:15
YES MAN (PG-13)
(!) 11:30, 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20
SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)
(!) 11:20, 2:05, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)
(!) 11:40, 2:20, 5:20, 7:50, 10:35
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)
(!) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
CADILLAC RECORDS (R)
11:40, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:30
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13)
11:40, 2:20, 5:20, 7:50, 10:35
BOLT (PG)
11:20, 2:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:20

LANDMARK'S BETHESDA ROW

7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-7273
Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #805
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
DOUBT (PG-13)
12:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
MILK (R)
12:15, 1:10, 3:05, 4:00, 6:05, 7:05, 9:00, 10:00
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
12:50, 1:50, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:10

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY

7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth 301-767-9555
Visit us at: **pandgtheatres.com**
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)
1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:10, 9:10
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40

MARLOW 6 THEATRES

Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)
11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:50
YES MAN (PG-13)
12:00, 2:05, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 10:55
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)
11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
BOLT (PG)
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:40, 8:35, 10:40
CADILLAC RECORDS (R)
11:35, 2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:50

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301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
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MILK (R)
4:50, 7:30, 9:55

VIRGINIA

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE

9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com

MILK (R)
9:50, 10:15, 12:20, 1:15, 3:15, 4:00, 7:20, 7:40, 9:50, 10:05
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
9:45, 10:00, 12:10, 12:30, 2:35, 4:30, 5:05, 7:30, 7:50, 9:45, 10:10
AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
9:40, 1:00, 4:15, 8:00
I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG-13)
9:55, 2:25, 7:10
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R)
12:05, 4:50, 9:25

PHOENIX THEATRES WORLDGATE 9

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Centreville Rd., Herndon 703-318-9290
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Advance Ticketing Available at
www.PhoenixTheatres.com

SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)
12:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
YES MAN (PG-13)
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50
NENINTHE (NR)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
BOLT (PG)
12:25, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:05
TWILIGHT (PG-13)
12:30, 4:15, 7:25, 10:15
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
12:10, 10:00
AUSTRALIA (PG-13)
2:50, 6:30

ALEXANDRIA

www.oldtowntheater.com
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Fine Dining Beer & Wine
YES MAN (PG-13)
3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG-13)
3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

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Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #781
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

MILK (R)
12:30, 1:40, 3:30, 4:40, 6:30, 7:40, 9:30, 10:40
THE WILD CHILD (G)
2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:35, 11:45
DOUBT (PG-13)
12:45, 2:15, 3:15, 4:45, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 11:00
THE BIG LEBOWSKI (R)
12:00 AM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
12:50, 2:00, 3:50, 5:00, 6:50, 8:00, 9:40, 10:50
TIME CRIMES (R)
2:30, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50, 11:55

PHOENIX THEATRES UNION STATION 9

Metro's Red Line
202-842-4455
Bargain Matinees Daily Before 4
Advance Ticketing Available at
www.PhoenixTheatres.com

*** No Passes**
***THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G)**
12:05, 2:20, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20
***SEVEN POUNDS (PG-13)**
11:30, 2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00
***YES MAN (PG-13)**
11:40, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25
***THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG-13)**
11:45, 2:25, 4:40, 7:35, 9:50
***RAB NE BANA DI JODI (NR)**
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
CADILLAC RECORDS (R)
11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:40
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG-13)
12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
BOLT (PG)
11:55, 2:10, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
11:50, 2:35, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45

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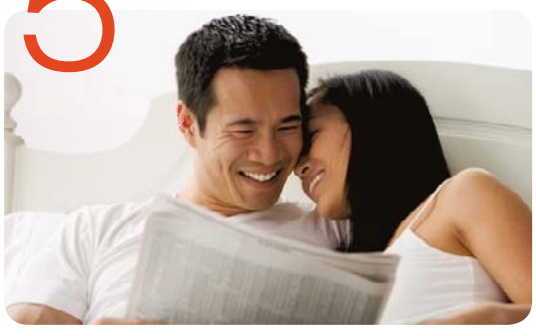

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IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)
(10:10 @ $9), 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50, 12:20

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (10:30 @ $8), 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) ✓ (10:00, 10:50, 11:50 @ $6), 1:00, 1:45, 3:00, 4:10, 5:00, 6:10, 7:10, 8:00, 9:20, 10:10, 11:00, 12:10
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) (10:20, 11:20 @ $6), 12:50, 1:50, 3:30, 4:20, 5:55, 7:30, 8:30, 10:05, 10:55, 12:25
YES MAN (PG13) ✓ (11:10 @ $6), 12:00, 1:55, 2:45, 4:30, 5:30, 7:20, 8:10, 10:00, 10:50, 12:30
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) (11:00 @ $6), 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) CC DS 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:00, 11:40
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE (R) (10:45 @ $6), 1:25, 4:45, 7:45, 10:20
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 12:05, 4:05, 7:35, 11:05
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (10:05, 11:05 @ $6), 12:30, 1:30, 2:50, 4:05, 5:05, 6:30, 7:25, 9:10, 9:55, 11:30, 12:15
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 7:50, 10:20
BOLT (PG) (11:15 @ $6), 1:40, 4:15
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:15 @ $6), 1:15, 4:25, 7:15, 10:15
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (10:25 @ $6), 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:30, 12:00
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (10:35 @ $6), 12:55, 3:10, 5:35
ROLE MODELS (R) 7:05, 9:40, 12:05

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (10:40 @ $6), 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) (11:40 @ $6), 2:15, 4:55, 7:55, 10:35
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) (11:30 @ $6), 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:25

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway
1 (888) AMC-4FUN

IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)
(10:45 @ $9), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (11:50 @ $8), 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) (10:00, 11:00 @ $6), 1:00, 2:00, 4:10, 5:10, 7:10, 8:10, 10:10, 11:00
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) 1:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:15
YES MAN (PG13) (11:10 @ $6), 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) CC DS (11:40 @ $6), 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 6:45, 10:25
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (11:45 @ $6), 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) (11:20 @ $6), 5:20, 10:15
TWILIGHT (PG13) 1:45, 4:50, 7:55, 10:55
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (10:05 @ $6), 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (10:30 @ $6), 1:15, 3:45
ROLE MODELS (R) 2:45, 7:50

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) (11:30 @ $6), 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) (10:10 @ $6), 12:50, 3:30, 6:00, 8:40, 11:15

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 12:35, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) ✓ 1:05, 2:15, 4:10, 5:15, 7:10, 8:15, 10:10, 11:20
YES MAN (PG13) ✓ 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45, 12:20
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ 12:45, 2:05, 3:20, 4:40, 5:55, 7:15, 8:30, 9:50, 11:10, 12:15
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 3:15, 6:50
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00, 12:15
TWILIGHT (PG13) 2:00, 4:55, 7:40, 10:35
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 4:45, 7:20, 9:55, 12:25
ROLE MODELS (R) 10:30 PM

AMC SELECT

FROST/NIXON (R) ✓ 12:50, 1:55, 3:35, 4:50, 6:30, 7:45, 9:25, 10:40, 12:10
FROST/NIXON (R) CC ✓ 12:50, 3:35, 6:30, 9:25, 12:10
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:00, 2:10, 3:50, 5:05, 6:45, 8:00, 9:40, 10:55, 12:25
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 2:20

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

IMAX THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13) ✓
(10:55 @ $9), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 10:05
SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) ✓ (10:00 @ $6), 12:20, 1:00, 3:20, 4:10, 6:20, 7:10, 9:30, 10:10, 12:05
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ✓ (10:05 @ $6), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
YES MAN (PG13) ✓ (10:30, 11:10 @ $6), 1:10, 1:50, 3:50, 4:30, 6:40, 7:20, 9:20, 10:00, 12:00
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ 12:50, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00, 11:30
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) CC DS ✓
(11:30 @ $6), 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 6:10, 9:40
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (10:10 @ $6), 12:25, 2:50, 5:10, 6:45, 7:30, 9:10, 9:50
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40
BOLT (PG) (11:05 @ $6), 1:35, 4:15
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:40 @ $6), 1:30, 4:25, 7:15, 10:15
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (11:40 @ $6), 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:35
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (10:50 @ $6), 1:15, 3:40

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (10:15 @ $6), 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:45
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) (11:20 @ $6), 2:00, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) ✓ (10:10, 11:10 @ $6), 1:00, 2:00, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:40
YES MAN (PG13) ✓ (11:00 @ $6), 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ 12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20
BOLT (PG) (10:00 @ $6), 12:10, 2:25, 4:40

AMC SELECT

MILK (R) (10:50 @ $6), 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) (10:15, 11:00 @ $6), 12:15, 1:15, 2:00, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 6:15, 7:15, 8:05, 9:15, 10:15, 11:00
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) (11:40 @ $6), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
YES MAN (PG13) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (10:20 @ $6), 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 12:45, 5:45
BOLT (PG) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:10 @ $6), 1:00, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 10:20 PM
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10
SOUL MEN (R) (10:25 @ $6), 3:15, 8:15, 10:45

AMC SELECT

NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) 7:40, 10:10
CADILLAC RECORDS (R) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7

2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) 2:20, 7:40
I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (PG13) 1:35, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:45, 3:15, 4:30, 5:55, 7:20, 8:45, 10:00
MILK (R) 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY (R) 4:35, 9:55
RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (R) 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

LOEWS UPTOWN 1

3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (9:20, 11:40 @ $8), 2:00, 4:25, 7:00, 9:20, 11:45
SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) ✓ (9:00, 10:10 @ $6), 12:05, 1:05, 2:55, 4:10, 5:55, 7:05, 8:55, 10:05, 11:50, 12:55
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ✓ (9:00, 11:30 @ $6), 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:40, 11:55
YES MAN (PG13) ✓ (9:25 @ $6), 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35, 1:00
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ (9:40, 10:25, 11:15 @ $6), 12:15, 1:10, 2:05, 3:05, 3:50, 4:50, 5:40, 6:40, 7:40, 8:35, 9:25, 10:20, 11:15, 12:00, 12:50
AUSTRALIA (PG13) (9:05 @ $6), 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:55
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (9:15, 11:25 @ $6), 1:50, 4:05
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) CC DS (10:15 @ $6), 12:35, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10, 12:30
TRANSPORTER 3 (PG13) 8:15, 10:45
TWILIGHT (PG13) (10:30 @ $6), 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00, 12:45
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (10:55 @ $6), 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45, 12:20
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (9:10, 11:20 @ $6), 1:30, 3:45, 6:00

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) ✓ (10:35 @ $6), 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15, 1:00
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ (9:35 @ $6), 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50, 12:25

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
YES MAN (PG13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
AUSTRALIA (PG13) CC DS 3:10, 6:50, 10:20
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
BOLT (PG) 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18

9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL 3D

BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D (PG) (11:40 @ $8), 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50, 12:10
SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) ✓ (9:45, 11:15 @ $6), 12:45, 2:00, 3:45, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) ✓ (11:10 @ $6), 1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40, 12:00
YES MAN (PG13) ✓ (10:00, 11:30 @ $6), 1:00, 2:30, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45, 11:15, 12:20
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) ✓ (9:30, 10:15 @ $6), 12:00, 1:10, 2:45, 3:50, 5:15, 6:30, 8:15, 9:15, 11:05, 11:45
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) CC DS ✓
(11:00 @ $6), 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15
THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS (PG13) (10:10 @ $6), 12:35, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 12:05, 3:30, 7:05, 10:55
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) (10:50 @ $6), 1:05, 3:20, 4:35, 5:40, 7:10, 8:05, 9:25, 10:30, 11:40
BOLT (PG) (10:55 @ $6), 1:40
TWILIGHT (PG13) (11:20 @ $6), 2:05, 4:55, 7:50, 10:35
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG13) (9:35 @ $6), 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10
MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) (10:25 @ $6), 12:40, 2:55, 5:05
ROLE MODELS (R) 7:35, 9:55, 12:15

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (11:05 @ $6), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:25
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS (PG13) ✓ (10:05 @ $6), 12:25, 2:50, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20

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SEVEN POUNDS (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15
YES MAN (PG13) 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (PG13) 2:05, 4:35, 7:40, 10:10
AUSTRALIA (PG13) 2:30, 6:40, 10:05
FOUR CHRISTMASES (PG13) 2:10, 4:20, 7:30, 9:45

Times for Friday, December 19, 2008

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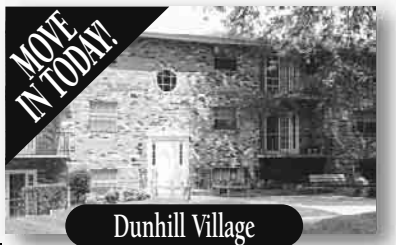

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1 br's + den from low $1,100's
2br's from upper $1,100's

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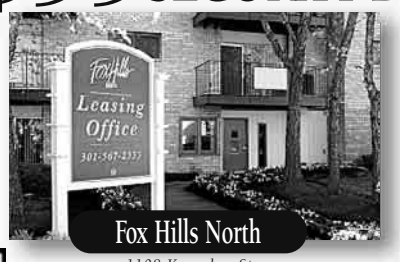

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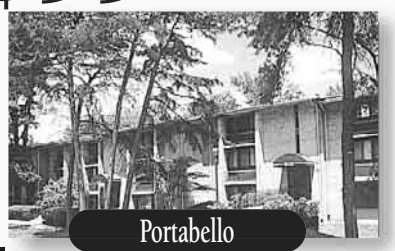

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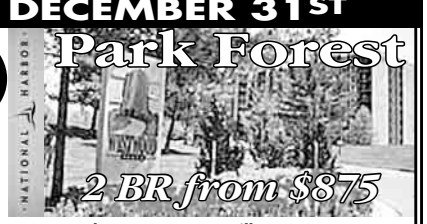

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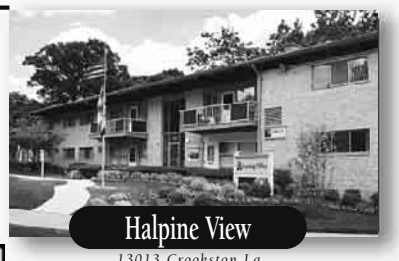

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INSIDE

Scarlett's snot apparently is valuable | 38

Blog Log: 'Morning Joe' host mugged in D.C. | 36

Discussions: Pat Goss on vehicle repairs | 36

PHOTOS BY MODEL RAILROADER MAGAZINE/AP

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: Generations of Americans have received old-fashioned model train sets as Christmas presents.

Right on Track

Presents

Train sets are still popular toys during the holiday season

Chris Forsyth's best Christmas was when he woke up to a train chugging around the tree, a conductor's hat and a little pair of overalls.

So, he makes sure to put a train around his Christmas tree each year.

"It brings back those good memories," said Forsyth, 43, of Wheat Ridge, Colo., adding that he is reminded of the excitement of that Christmas morning when he was 6. "It conveys the magic of childhood."

Memories are what often bring out Christmas tree trains this time of the year, as people purchase new sets or dig out their old ones for repairs.

> "For many people, Christmas seemed to involve trains."
>
> PAUL D. RACE, BIGCHRISTMASTRAINS.COM

Electric trains under the Christmas tree date back to at least the early 1900s, according to Paul D. Race, editor of BigChristmasTrains.com. But prior to electric, there were wind-up and push trains.

In the 1920s, '30s and '40s, a good train set could cost as much as a washing machine, said Race.

"It was the biggest present you could possibly get, and as a result, it was reserved for Christmas," he said. "Once the presents were opened, usually the only place you could set up the track was around the tree."

Trains also had a special significance because they brought people home for the holidays, according to Ron Hollander's "All Aboard!: The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen & His Lionel Train Company."

"So, for many people, Christmas seemed to involve trains," said Race.

By 1960, Christmas trains were as ubiquitous as gaming systems are today, said Jerry Calabrese, CEO of Lionel, the leading model train manufacturer.

Even today, when the most-hyped electronics tend to be music players or communication devices, an old-fashioned electric train chugging around the Christmas tree is popular.

Lionel is expecting a 50 percent increase in sales of starter sets — including licensed ones such as a "Harry Potter" Hogwarts Express — over 2007 based on holiday preorders from major retailers. Lionel sold 200,000 model train sets in 2007 compared with 80,000 in 2004, and the bulk of those were the ready-to-run sets, according to the company.

Lionel says it has run a marketing campaign to appeal to consumers beyond the hard-core hobbyists, creating new lines of train sets and putting them in places like Target, FAO Schwarz and Toys "R" Us, says Calabrese.

When people see them, they think about being a kid and connecting with their fathers, he said.

Mike Wolf, owner of MTH Electric Trains, says that's what he sees, too. The average age of his manufacturing company's customer is 52; many are baby boomers who want to pass the tradition on to their kids and grandkids.

Some train enthusiasts want the magic of a train but can't afford the $200 or so for a complete set.

A train underneath the Christmas tree has become a common holiday decoration.

James Pentifallo, owner and manger of Ridgefield Hobby in Ridgefield, N.J., said more people are bringing in their trains for repairs this holiday season compared with previous years. He had 80 to 100 that needed to be fixed one week this month.

For many people, "there is no real money to buy a brand-new train set," he said. "They'll fix the old stuff up and add a little bit to it."

At the other end of the spectrum, Caboose Hobbies in Denver reports similar sales numbers to those of last year, but more people investing more in the higher-end sets, says owner Duane Miller.

For boomers, a train under the tree can be as much a part of decorating as ornaments, he said.

Lou Failla, 48, of Fair Lawn, N.J., whose trains were featured in O Gauge Railroading magazine, said he got his first train set when he was 5. Failla, a police officer, said his trains make him feel like a kid again.

"What's nice is to be able to go back to that era, the simplicity of the trains running around the Christmas tree," he said. "It's symbolic. It's almost up there with the Christmas tree and Santa." MEGAN K. SCOTT (AP)

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MUSIC

Thrash in the Van

Darkest Hour is D.C.'s best-known metal band, but it might also be the District's biggest music fans, too. That's why the handpicked opening acts for Darkest Hour's Sunday concert at the 9:30 Club grabbed Christopher Porter's attention. He spoke to thrash-death metalheads Skeletonwitch. | ONLINE NOW

STAGE

Think Pink

Through Jan. 11, 'Legally Blonde: The Musical' will be prancing through the halls of the Kennedy Center in a whirl of song, dance, glitter and self-esteem. Rudi Greenberg spoke to star Becky Gulsvig, who stars as Elle Woods, the movie role that helped make Reese Witherspoon a star. | ONLINE NOW

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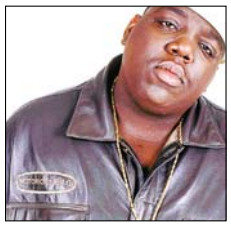
Friday Freestyle



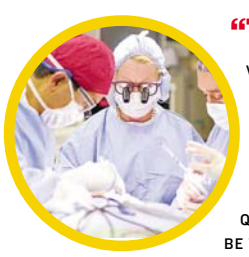
We continue our quest to empty SnagFilms' free, embeddable movie vault of music-related flicks. For today's round of workday hooky, join us in watching "Freestyle: The Art of Rhyme," which documents the improvisational element of rap. | ONLINE NOW

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

IF YOU WERE SEVERELY DISFIGURED, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO UNDERGO A FACE TRANSPLANT?

YES 77% | **NO** 23%



"This has nothing to do with vanity. If I had no nose, no palate, no way to eat or breathe on [my] own, a face so hideous that children who saw [me] screamed and ran away, then, yes, I would consider it."

COMMENTER CR, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "IF YOU WERE SEVERELY DISFIGURED, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO UNDERGO A FACE TRANSPLANT?"

"The things that modern surgeons can do now is pretty amazing. If walking into a bar dressed like a mummy with sunglasses wasn't getting it done, I'd consider the surgery."

COMMENTER ANOTHER PERSON, WHO ADDED, "ALTHOUGH, I'M RETHINKING MY ORGAN DONOR STATUS."

"Getting a face transplant seems like voluntarily going into the witness protection program. I suppose I could be convinced to do it under the most exigent of circumstances."

COMMENTER NENIKHKAMEN, WHO ADDED, "I DON'T THINK I COULD BE COMFORTABLE LIVING WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S FACE."

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT **EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER**

Blog LOG

"This a great step, but reading through the details, I see it really is just a case of the city of Annapolis' having to legislate common sense."

WASHINGTONGARDENER.BLOGSPOT.COM WAS GLAD TO SEE THE CITY PASS LEGISLATION THAT BANS LAWN FERTILIZER SALE OR USE WITHIN CITY LIMITS AND ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY.

ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES

"The story says he asked for $20, and she gave him $6 and he left. This is a panhandler, not a mugger. [She] is one out-of-touch princess."

A COMMENTER AT **WONKETTE.COM** REACTS TO THE STORY OF MSNBC "MORNING JOE" CO-HOST MIKA BRZEZINSKI'S BEING MUGGED WHILE IN TOWN TO INTERVIEW D.C. MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY.

"THE MAN SHOULD not be pardoned. He shouldn't have his head cut off or his toenails pulled out, to be sure. But he must be punished, if not for his act then to make it clear to others that civilized people do not handle their anger by acting like dogs."

BIG-STUPID-GUY.BLOGSPOT.COM IS APPALLED THAT THE MAN WHO THREW HIS SHOES AT PRESIDENT BUSH IS ASKING THE IRAQI PRIME MINISTER FOR A PARDON.

"Did anyone else have to sing 'The Twelve Days After Christmas' in high school? I simultaneously love that song and find it maddening, because 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' [come] after Christmas."

JORDANBAKER.BLOGSPOT.COM CAN'T STAND THE USE OF THAT SONG AS A COUNTDOWN ADDING, "XMAS IS THE FIRST DAY; EPIPHANY [JAN. 6] IS THE 12TH."

Discussions

Pat Goss on Cars

Auto expert **PAT GOSS** was online Thursday and discussed hybrids and gas mileage, foreign- versus American-made cars and oil changes.

Have you seen any major business implications from the current economic climate? Or have repair shops in the Washington, D.C., area been doing OK because of our insulated government-based economy?
Any problems? You would not believe. Business is the worst I have seen in over 30 years (adjusted). Unless things pick up in the near future I am going to do what a number of people I know have done: turn the key and walk away.

It's known that short commutes (less than 3 miles) are murder for cars, especially in cold weather. Do you agree that it's even worse for hybrid vehicles if this short commute means the gas engine has an even lesser chance of warming up?
No, about the same. Hybrids have provisions to make them warm much faster than non-hybrids. But if I had a situation like that, I would be sure to drive the car for half an hour at highway speeds at least once every two weeks, but better yet every week.

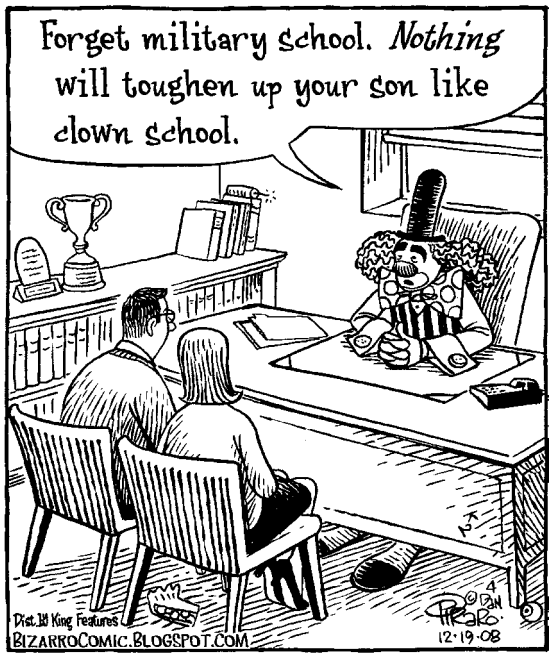
Do you think American cars are equal in quality and reliability to foreign cars? With some exceptions, Consumer Reports seems to hate anything that is not a Honda or Toyota, but I've heard that American cars match up pretty well these days.
I do more repairs on imports than on domestics. Over the years, the domestics have become the ones we respect the most due to fewer repairs, especially oil leaks. It used to be the opposite, but now we fix fewer leaks on the domestics.

I had an oil change done at a new (supposedly reputable) place a month ago, and ever since my gas mileage has been significantly worse. Could the two be related?
Possible but not probable, unless they used the wrong grade of oil. Thicker-than-recommended oil will decrease fuel mileage. Otherwise, it is probably related to the drop in temperature. The lower the outside temperature, the fewer miles per gallon.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Security Fix blogger Brian Krebs answers your questions about the latest computer security threats and offers ways to protect your personal information at 11 a.m. | **washingtonpost.com/discussions.**

Look out

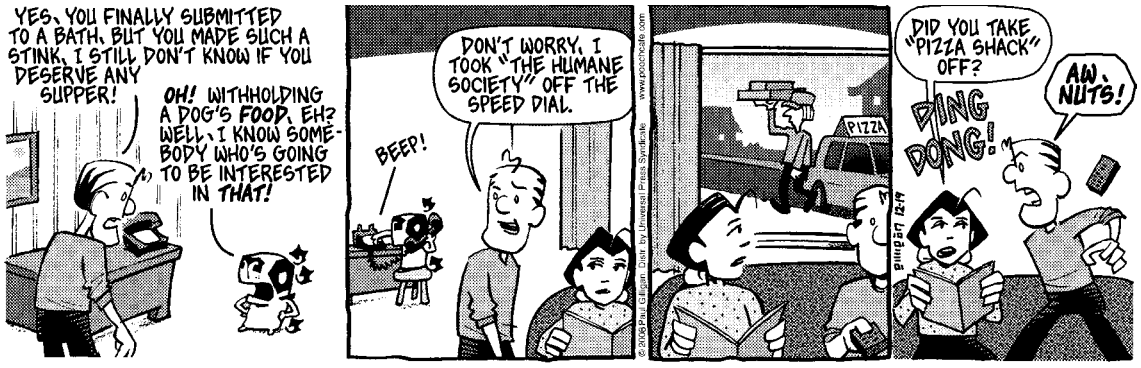
Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*



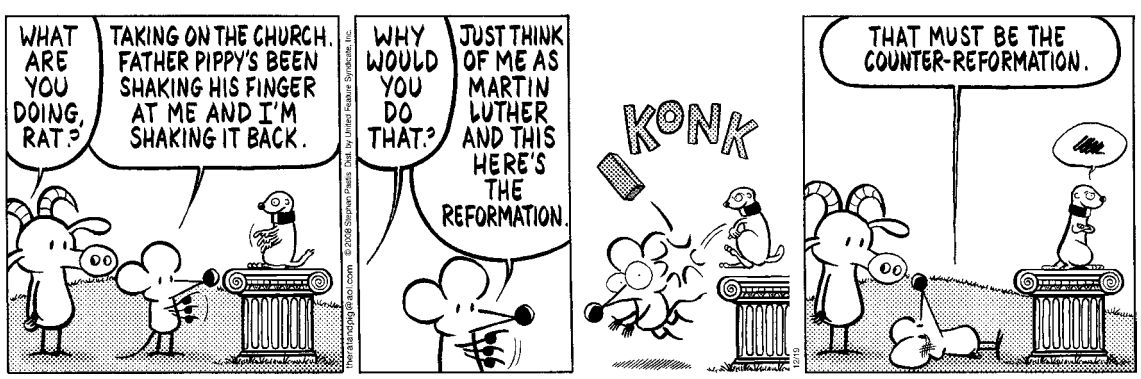
Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

He wasn't a bad guy, just easily distracted.

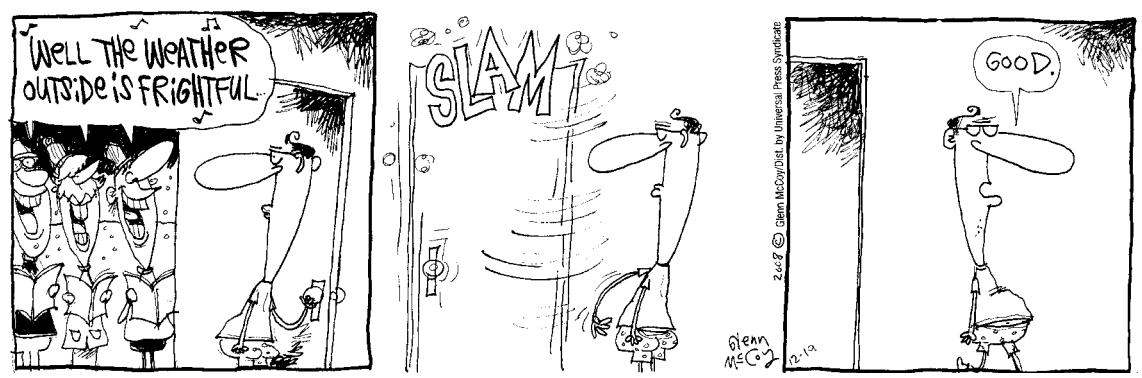
Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*



Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*



The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Someone you have to work with closely may be misreading you. Take the time to talk things over honestly — and do it soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may be too inclined to overreact to routine surprises. You can't expect every thing according to plan; be willing to adjust.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're being a little too selfish these days. It's time for you to shift your focus away from yourself; a friend deserves more attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You've been increasing the pace lately, but now it's time to slow down and begin saving energy rather than expending it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You can't build a bridge without wanting two sides joined in the middle. You can facilitate an important compromise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll find yourself engaged in an emotional tug-of-war before the day is out. A trusted friend comes through in the nick of time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may be quite restless, but you can be rooted and stabilized by a timely connection with someone who emerges from your past.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be prepared for more activity in the personal sphere. Work on internal rhythms; stay in touch with what makes you tick.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your willingness to work harder in order to reverse the effects of a recent error will serve you well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Dispense information freely, but be sure that what you have to tell is accurate and up to date. Now is no time to keep info to yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) If you're feeling restless, don't just sit and stew, but get yourself moving and channel your energy into a new and positive endeavor.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Share and share alike — but when you can't, it will be wise for you to let someone else have the bigger slice.

Letters

The 'Crime' of Failing

I WONDER WHAT J. Andrew Smith ("Punish Corrupt Bigwigs," Dec. 18) considers "corruption." Most of the companies he singled out for "corruption" committed only the "crime" of failing. Tyco is the exception; men are in jail for that mess. The others were just overleveraged and had more market exposure.

—MATT CLIFTON
Gaithersburg, Md.

Correction:

Due to an editing error, the caption with the Capitals photo on page 17 in Thursday's Express incorrectly identified No. 15 as Nicklas Backstrom. It was actually Boyd Gordon.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1777 Gen. George Washington leads his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pa., to camp for the winter.

1843 "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, is first published in England.

1932 The British Broadcasting Corporation begins transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia.

1998 President Clinton is impeached by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives for perjury and obstruction of justice. (He was later acquitted by the Senate.)

2007 President. Bush signs legislation increasing fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles and requiring wider use of ethanol.

AP

The House impeached President Clinton.

PostPoints DAILY CODE RT

Look out | People

RICHARD DREW/AP

Former model Carla Bruni-Sarkozy.

CASE CLOTHED

France's First Lady Amused By 'Never-Nude' Concept

CARLA BRUNI-SARKOZY, the first lady of France, has won $57,500 in damages from a fashion company that sold 500 bags emblazoned with her nude picture. The photo of Bruni-Sarkozy, a former model, was taken in 1993. (EXPRESS)

EXTRACTIONS

Saga of Pain and Popsicles Fuels Studio Bidding War

TAYLOR SWIFT, 19, may have the No. 1 pop album, but she's acting like a true American teen this week. The country warbler has been blogging about the pain of having two wisdom teeth removed. (EXPRESS)

FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

CHARITY

Cold (Cash) Mountin'

SCARLETT JOHANSSON blew her nose on the "Tonight Show," and now the used tissue is being sold on eBay for charity. The actress said she'd caught a cold from Samuel L. Jackson and felt her illness had value because it had been passed down from one celebrity to another. As of Thursday morning, the dirty tissue had snagged more than 60 bids. (AP)

OFF THE HOOK

Sales of Filet-O-Fish Soar in Manhattan

William H. Macy will replace Jeremy Piven, left.

JEREMY PIVEN, star of HBO's "Entourage," has abruptly departed the praised production of "Speed the Plow," less than two months after the Broadway show opened. "We have been advised by Jeremy Piven's medical representatives that he is seriously ill" the producers said in a statement. "Consequently, he has left the production 10 weeks early." A doctor told Variety the actor, 43, is suffering from high levels of mercury found in sushi. (AP)

INVESTMENTS

Bjork Revives Icelandic Bjank

BJORK, 43, has agreed to lend her name to a venture capital fund devoted to women's causes, natural resources and green causes in her homeland. The fund is captained by Auder Investments, an Icelandic firm with 17 employees, 15 of them women. "It's a great honor to have [the fund] named after me," Bjork told Icelandic daily Morgunbladid. Iceland has been devastated by the global economic crisis. (EXPRESS)

COMMUNITIES

Facial Hair Likely to Impede Meaningful Friendships

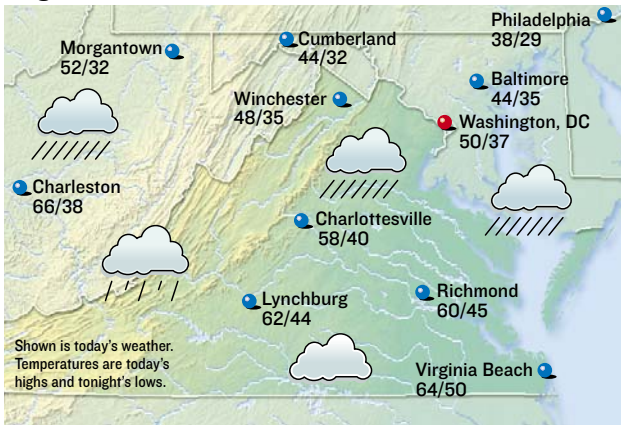
ZACH BRAFF, Kim Kardashian and Selena Gomez have more in common than their celebrity status: According to MySpace, they're among the stars with the most friends on the social network. Also in the top 10 are Paris Hilton, Shanna Moakler and Lauren Conrad. (AP)

Did you hear the one about the sensitive guy?

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Cloudy, rain	Cloudy, drizzle	Cloudy	Cloudy, rain	Partly sunny, windy	Partly sunny
50°	37°	40° / 37°	37° / 27°	39° / 25°	42° / 31°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	42°
Low	38°
Normal high	46°
Normal low	31°
Average humidity	70%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	2.50"
Normal month to date	1.75"
Year to date	46.02"
Last year to date	31.50"
Normal year to date	38.16"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: **washingtonpost.com/weather**

Regional Forecast

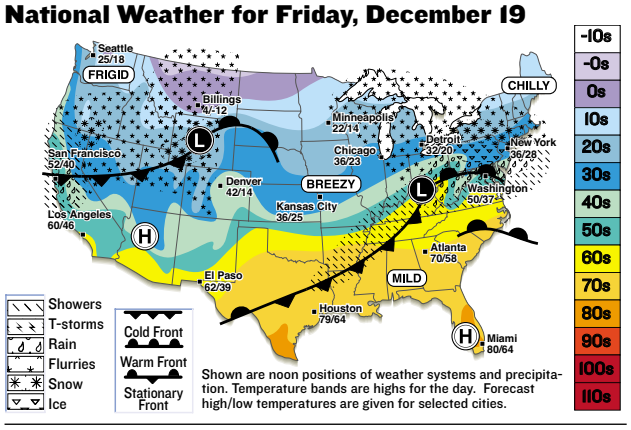
D.C. Metro: Today, cloudy, rain. High 50. Wind south 7-14 mph. Tonight, cloudy, drizzle. Low 37. Wind north-northeast 7-14 mph. Saturday, cloudy.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:22 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:49 p.m.
Moonrise today	none
Moonset today	11:58 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Dec 19	Dec 27	Jan 4	Jan 10

National Weather for Friday, December 19



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	70/58/pc	73/47/sh
Boston	32/18/sn	25/24/sf
Chicago	36/23/sn	30/17/sn
Dallas	72/58/pc	68/29/c
Denver	42/14/pc	18/0/sf
Honolulu	82/70/sh	81/69/pc
Los Angeles	60/46/pc	64/46/pc
Miami	80/64/s	80/66/s
New York City	36/28/sn	30/29/sn
Orlando	80/54/s	78/58/s
Seattle	25/18/pc	28/25/pc

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	43/41/pc	48/42/pc
Athens	60/50/s	59/45/sh
Berlin	39/31/r	41/33/r
Buenos Aires	88/75/pc	91/75/s
Calgary	-7/-21/c	-15/-24/s
Dublin	46/41/r	52/43/sh
Geneva	37/35/r	37/35/r
Moscow	27/23/c	25/21/sf
Rome	51/37/c	53/39/pc
Sydney	79/61/s	70/59/pc
Tokyo	52/43/pc	57/46/pc

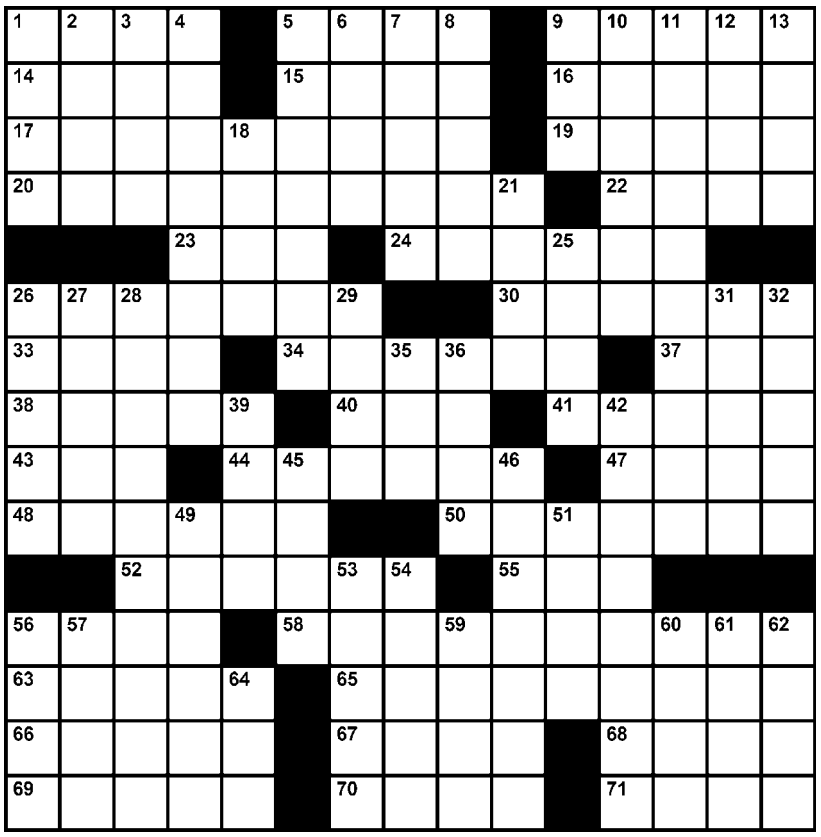
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Puzzles | Look out

CROSSWORD | ON THE ROAD AGAIN

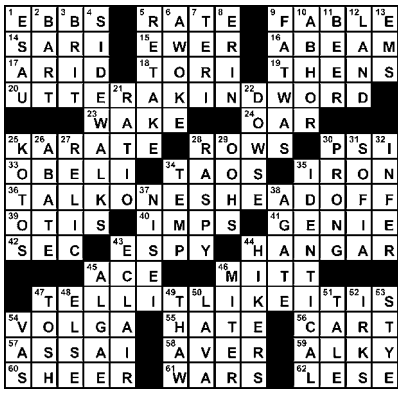
ACROSS
1 Small bit of gel
5 Give a darn
9 Certain faith
14 Chief navigator on the Enterprise
15 Hale of "Gilligan's Island"
16 Buyer be where?
17 Daddy longlegs, e.g.
19 Make merry
20 Swank New York address
22 Peruse
23 Palindromic constellation
24 Film dog (with "Old")
26 Easily insurable
30 You'll find them standing in malls
33 PGA golfer Aoki
34 Upholstered piece
37 Capt. Jean-___ Picard
38 Machetes that originated in the Philippines
40 Parliamentary vote
41 Where some people have it made
43 Wing with no feathers?
44 An archbishop of Canterbury
47 Words with "sit" or "look"
48 First name in the "Airplane" cast
50 Most enduring
52 El Greco's city
55 Japanese drama
56 Ethnic round dance
58 Where the stars shop
63 Uninterruptedly
65 Becomes aware of
66 Arab chieftain (Var.)
67 Academic paper abbr.
68 ___ serif
69 Hold another hearing for
70 Vial datum
71 Opposite of ecto-

DOWN
1 "I need it yesterday!"
2 ___ mater (brain covering)
3 Banned apple application
4 Broncobuster
5 Solicit votes
6 Certain succulent
7 Unlike good golfing weather
8 Endow with a quality
9 Where Mt. Tabor is, briefly
10 Mono alternative
11 Romantics' hangout
12 Bailiwick
13 Pinochle play
18 World War I spy
21 Sommer of "Exit Sunset Boulevard"
25 Taradiddles
26 Malign in print
27 "___ Mio"
28 1987 Michael Douglas film
29 Frequently misplaced items
31 Acclaim
32 Aroma
35 Golf expendable
36 Like some orders
39 Crossjack, e.g.
42 Type of apartment building
45 At no time, poetically
46 Prop for Mr. Peanut
49 Temporary vehicle
51 Lymph ___
53 Drugged
54 "___ Billie Joe"
56 One with ground strokes?
57 Words with "lay it" or "the joke's"
59 Memorable periods
60 A Karamazov brother
61 Blow off steam
62 Classic gas brand
64 In need of a drink



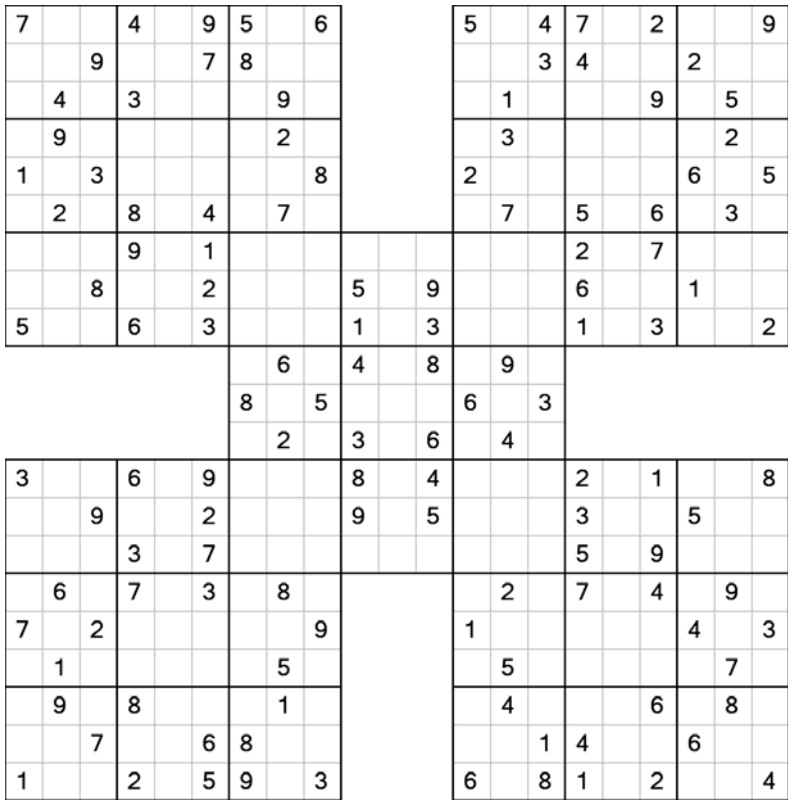
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Yesterday's Solution



SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.



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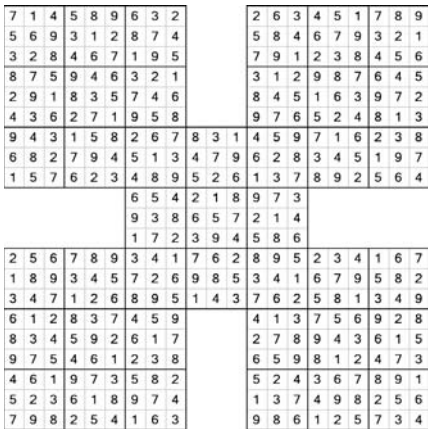
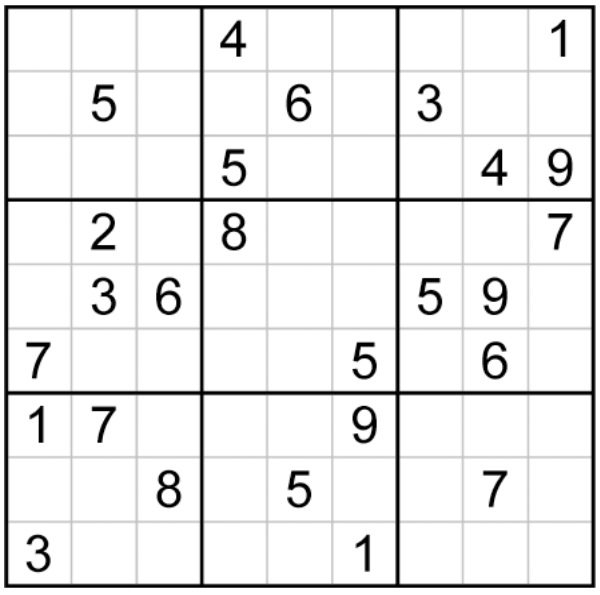
Last Week's Solution



CLASSIC SUDOKU | HARD



© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Yesterday's Solution

3	2	9	5	1	4	8	6	7
6	7	4	3	9	8	5	2	1
5	1	8	6	2	7	4	3	9
9	6	2	7	4	1	3	5	8
8	4	1	9	3	5	6	7	2
7	3	5	8	6	2	1	9	4
4	9	7	1	5	6	2	8	3
1	5	3	2	8	9	7	4	6
2	8	6	4	7	3	9	1	5

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Su|do|ku?
Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

express
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HOW TO SHOP, ENTERTAIN, DRESS, DECORATE AND OTHERWISE IMPROVE YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME

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TAKE THE METRO TO FOUR HOT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR COOL LAST-MINUTE GIFTS E6

LAWRENCE LUK

face Q+A time

Ever bought a pair of heels dubbed "Point It Out" or loafers christened "Heir Force"? Then you've likely walked in Kenneth Cole's shoes. The New York City designer known for urbane styles also wins props for his edgy ad campaigns and commitment to charity. It's that latter spirit that powers his new book, "Awearness: Inspiring Stories About How to Make a Difference"($25, Melcher Media).

The book tells how both celebs and ordinary people become involved in helping others. What's the thing that turns them on to giving back?
I think it's when they get the knowledge of how to do it. The reality is that charity doesn't cost as much as you think. Everybody really wants to help each other.

How does the book get someone off the sofa and into the soup kitchen?
It shows people the resources they need to get involved. They need to think about how it's not just giving your time. Sometimes it's about bringing skills to the table.

Your company has always been involved in charities. Why?
I've always felt that to the degree I can, it's a privilege. It's a way to make my brand more important than just a shoe company.

Kenneth Cole ads tend to be political and edgy. Does that sell shoes?
I know some people are put off by our ads. But we speak to a more progressive individual, a contemporary person who tends to respect our willingness to put ourselves out there on issues like the death penalty or genocide. They give us the benefit of having courage to do it.

Who wears your designs?
We dress people who define their own sense of style and not let it define them. If I've done my job, someone will say, "You look great," not, "Who are you wearing?"

KENNETH COLE NEW YORK

Kenneth Cole

SHOE DESIGNER, CHARITY CHAMPION

Who gets to name the shoes?
It's whoever is most inspired among us at the time. Giving a shoe a name makes it become more real and lends it personality.

What inspires your designs?
New York is my muse. I'm also inspired by where I can add value. I ask, "What do I wish I had to wear?"

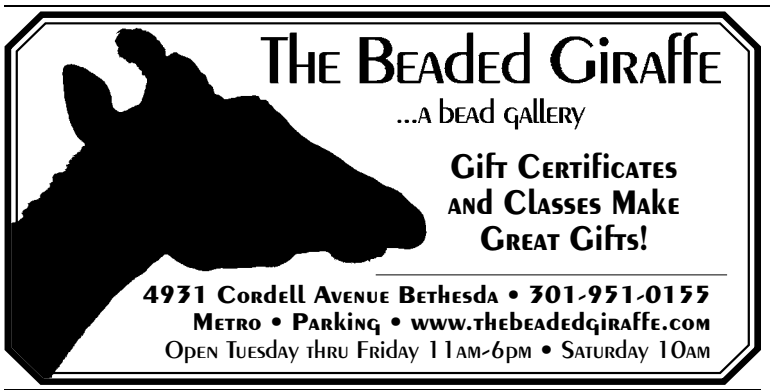
Describe this season's collection.
Our fashion message was comfortable, lots of layers and knits for women, and big comfortable bags. Boots and flats were both important. And for men, everything got a little more tailored and natural.

I always feel like your shoes are uncommonly comfortable. Why?
Shoes define how you look and how you feel. If you don't feel good, you don't look good.

> "Giving a shoe a name makes it become more real and lends it personality."

What are you wearing these days?
Wool blazers and lace-up boots. Everything I wear works for everything that I do. I wear the same blazers to the office that I do on weekends to black-tie affairs. That's how I define investment dressing: something that's comfortable that you wear a lot.

You were a supporter of Barack Obama. Do you think he'll bring good style as well as good policies?
The Obamas represent a sense of hope and spirit, and they dress in a way that is credible and relatable. I think they're iconic. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



goods | Styles

Look Swell Like Michelle

POLITICS CAN GET UGLY. That's is all the more reason for the new Lady Obama lipstick ($20, Khuraira.com), created by Khuraira. The make-up maven (and Trish McEvoy and Laura Mercier alum) honors our first-lady-to-be's casual glamour with a shimmering bronze lip color that works with a slew of skin tones. What's more, 20 percent of the sale proceeds go toward breast-cancer charities. Can we do some good by looking good? Yes, we can.

4

The Silver Rush

IN THE INSPIRED MIND and metalsmithing hands of D.C. jeweler Heidi Hess, a seed pod is caged in metal and strung on a neck chain, and ribbons of silver melt into earrings (shown, $55). Hess just opened Poppy Metals (3235 P St. NW; 202-352-6802) in Georgetown to sell her wares and those of guest artists such as Jessi Taylor, whose taxidermy glass-eye rings intrigue us.

Grab Bag

Muenster Mash Note

EVEN IN A STINKY ECONOMY (and magazine meltdown), cheese holds a warm spot in our hearts and menus. That's why, as Conde Nast cans staff and people eat beans from cans, we think Culture ($13), the new fromage glossy, will be a success on par with the creation of Gruyere. Stories and lush photos deal with everything from Parmesan-making to cheesy desserts. There's even a column that interviews, um, a cheese!

3

Playing Dress-Up

A CLOSET CHOCK-FULL of ultra-pretty vintage pieces? We can dream. Until then, we're keeping our sartorial wishes sated with vintage fashion magnetic dress-up dolls ($14, Mudpuppy.com). The boxed set features a darling little doll and pop-out pages of drool-worthy pieces (kicky oxford heels, flapper-style cocktail dresses, tiny evening purses) to clothe her in. If only our own wardrobe was half as posh.

5

Transparent Parenting

IF MOM AND DAD GET TO SIT ON Philippe Starck's polycarbonate-goes-to-Versailles Ghost Chair, won't their budding hipster progeny throw fits of design jealousy? That's the likely impetus for Lou Lou ($137, Allmodern.com), a new, child-size version of Kartell's iconic, clearly cool seat. Available in nine colors, the little darlings are stackable and scratch-proof, the epitome of Starck's kink for injecting whimsy into practicality. Expect to see through them soon in a Logan loft or a Del Ray bungalow.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

It's not only the most wonderful time of the year, but I'm also in love with a great guy. He's a bit of a downtown hipster. I want to get him some cool gifts for Xmas, and I thought shoes would be good. Any suggestions? — DARCY

■ Manolo says, ayyy. It is difficult to be the Downtown Hipster during the Christmas season. On the one of the hands, like the rest of us, the tiny child inside of the hipster wishes to celebrate the season with all of the robust

jollity it deserves. And yet, on the other of the hands, to do is to betray the carefully studied pose of ironic detachment that distinguishes the hipster from his fellow man.

The Manolo says, give it up, Mr. Hipster. Christmas is not about the conspicuous display of urban coolness. It is the time to open one's heart to the innocent wonder of Santy Claus, up on the rooftop with the tiny clattering hooves and the ho, ho, hoing. It is the time of happiness and honest affection for one's fellow humans, even those who live in the suburbs and who have not heard of your latest favorite obscure band.

Look! Here is the Braga from Ben Sherman ($216, Zappos.com), the brown ankle boot with enough cool to satisfy any Brooklyn-based poseur.

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

event horizon

➜ Grate stuff! Celeb chef Spike Mendelsohn demonstrates latke-making. Sunday, 6 p.m. $6. Sixth & I Synagogue, 6th and I Sts. NW.

Styles | fashion

mixed media

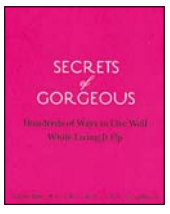
BOOKS

Coco, Crisply

■ For three weeks in 1962, young photojournalist Douglas Kirkland was invited to chronicle the daily routines of legendary designer Coco Chanel. The result, 46 years in the making: **COCO CHANEL: THREE WEEKS/1962** ($50, Glitterati), a insider-y chronicle of never-before-seen snaps of the design icon as she worked on her latest fashion collection and wandered the streets of Paris, always in her signature little suit, ropes of pearls and ever-present cigarette. B.L

BOOKS

Rosy Outlook



■ If beauty comes from within, then Esther Blum, the author of **SECRETS OF GORGEOUS: HUNDREDS OF WAYS TO LIVE WELL WHILE LIVING IT UP** ($13, Chronicle), is determined to draw it out. The beyond-Pepto pink tome bubbles with peppy diet and wellness tips for a prettier life. For better or worse, no subject is left untouched. Want tips to "get your rump ready for a hump?" Then this one's for you. B.L.

event horizon

➜ We might suggest fueling up on Christmas cookies (or eggnog) to prep for this year's bonanza of post-holiday sales. They're so good, the price-slashing starts as early as Saturday, when Rue 14 (1803a 14th St. NW; 202-462-6200) marks down men's and women's items up to 50 percent.

Lock Party

If last season belonged to the big bangle (and next year will be all about the bold necklace), then now is the heyday of the hairpiece. Whether feathered or frilled, such combs and clips bring elegance and whimsy to nights out. "It's an easy little extra that helps quickly create a fun evening look," says Proper Topper owner Anna Fuhrman. "It's a little bit retro and a little bit nature-inspired." Surely, a reason to get decked out before decking the halls. BETSY LOWTHER (EXPRESS)

FLOWER POWER Make a major statement with a seriously sculptural comb ($60, Reiss, 1254 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-944-8566).

RED HEAD This bright poppy hair clip ($40, Proper Topper, 3213 P St. NW; 202-333-6200) looks especially dramatic with a little black dress.

FINE PLUMAGE Tuck this spray of inky feathers ($48, Proper Topper) into a ponytail or messy updo to elevate it to an evening look.

A BLOOM OF ONE'S OWN A small chiffon rosette ($9.50, J. Crew, 5335 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-537-3380) is understated yet oh-so-pretty.

BOW DOWN We imagine that Blair Waldorf from "Gossip Girl" would die for this sleek, chic black satin hairband ($12.50, Lou Lou, 7125 Bethesda Lane; 301-652-0048).

PHEASANT DREAMS The naturally graphic pattern of this feathery clip ($40, Proper Topper) makes it fashiony but not overly precious.

We Dish You a Merry Christmas

In small doses, carols make one feel festive. But with all the geese getting fat and sugarplums dancing, yuletide hits can also make one as hungry as Santa on a midnight fridge raid. Can't imagine whipping up a figgy pudding? Try these products (some tastier than others) that use ingredients mentioned in seasonal songs in ways the "Away in a Manger" crowd never dreamt of. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

MULLING SPICE MIX

"Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail too."

— "THE WASSAIL SONG"

What happens when you heat a quart of red wine with this blend of cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg and citrus zest? The wassail (the old English term for hot, spiced punch) smells great in a "welcome-to-my-rustic-cabin" way. The resulting blood-red potion may taste too sugary for many, but perhaps Grandma, who loves her super-sweet Riesling, will enjoy raising a glass of it. ($7, Whole Foods)

FIG & WALNUT BUTTER

"Oh, bring us a figgy pudding and a cup of good cheer."

— "WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS"

Mushy peas. Cold toast. Blood sausages. Brits will snarf anything, including figgy pudding, a flaccid mass akin to a boiled, pruney sweet roll. Better to use Stonewall Kitchen's rich, jam-like concoction on ice cream or as a buddy to a blue cheese. And when people protest they won't go until they get some, you can simply open the jar and be done with them. ($8.50, Stonewallkitchen.com)

CHESTNUT HONEY

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose." — "THE CHRISTMAS SONG"

In Umbria, even bees eat well. Which must be why this amber-hued delicacy — produced by buzzers who slurp chestnut-flower nectar — smacks of golden hillsides, bucolic farms and romantic romps with Italian foreign-exchange students. Its bittersweet, primitivo flavor would be dolce with a nutty formaggio like Parmesan. ($13, Bella Italia, 4844 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, Md.; 301-654-2667)

EGGNOG POUND CAKE MIX

"She'd been drinking too much eggnog."

— "GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A REINDEER"

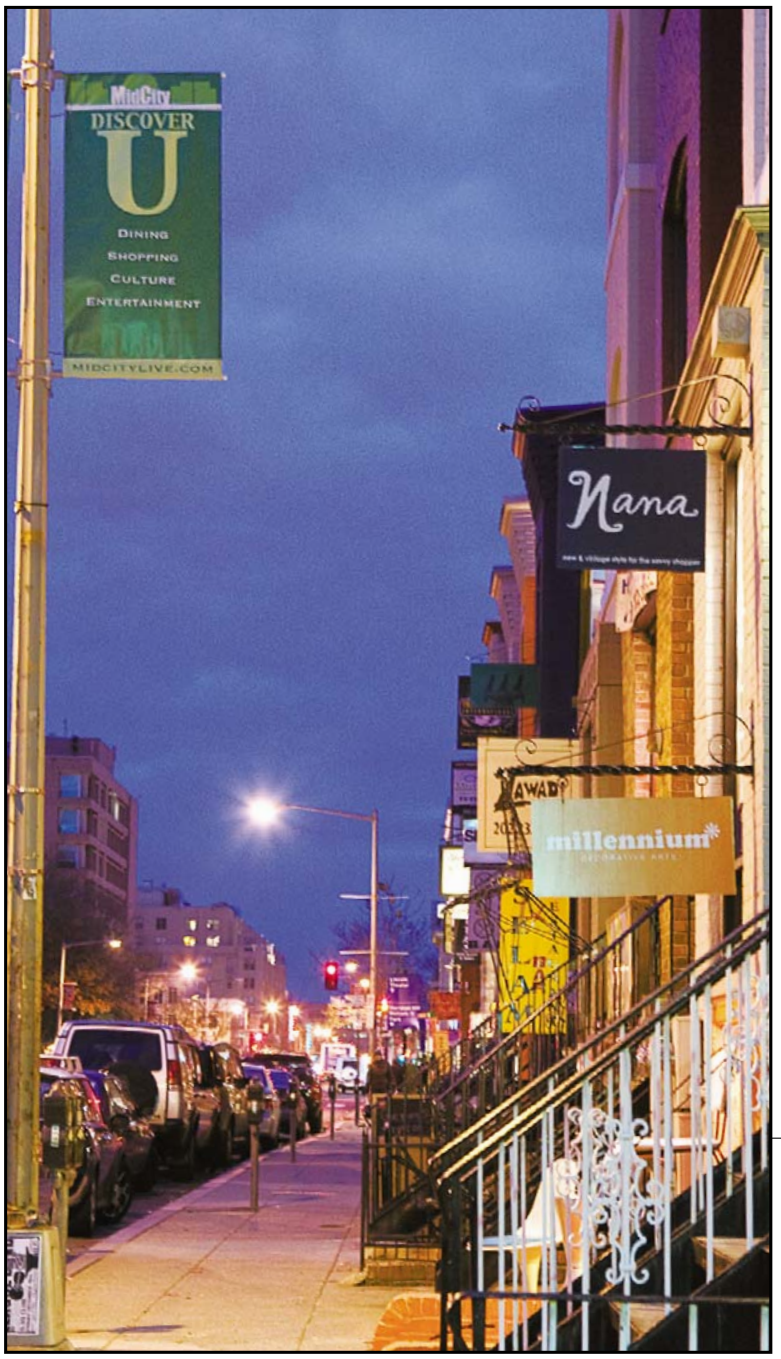
Personally, nog always seems a bit gloppy to us. And it produces slurred speech in our friends. It's better, perhaps, to whip up a batch of Stonewall Kitchen's not-too-sugary loaf, which somehow evokes the real thing without any bourbon. Its package suggests frying slices into French toast (nice) or covering them with vanilla ice cream and syrup (naughty, naughty). ($9, Stonewallkitchen.com)

CHOCOLATE MARSHMALLOWS

"It's a sugar date, what if spring is late? In winter, it's a marshmallow world." — "THE MARSHMALLOW SONG"

What if Rocky Road ice cream got condensed into a cube? It'd be a lot like W-S' Chocolate Marshmallows. We liked 'em solo and in coffee; melting in cocoa they'd be Donald-Trump decadent. Still, the blurbs on the box seemed overblown. We don't care if "confectioners" stirred chocolate in "copper kettles" and poured it on "marble slabs"; we want to eat! ($16.50, Williams-Sonoma)

Styles | holidays



LAWRENCE LUK

What are you doing on New Year's Eve? Gloating that you bought your presents locally in Shaw.

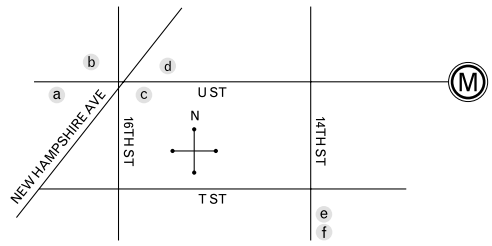
Rails to Sales

Thinking globally and shopping locally doesn't just apply to the Virginia ham you buy for Christmas dinner or those Hanukkah latkes made from farmers market potatoes. Why dash through mall traffic (or pay last-second online shipping fees) to finish your gift buying when our very own Metro system provides speedy access to homegrown boutiques and artists? Ride the trains to these merch-rich 'hoods, and you'll not only score cool presents — you might convince Santa to ditch the sleigh. JENNIFER BARGER AND BETSY LOWTHER (EXPRESS)

4

U Street, D.C.

Logan Circle's and Shaw's main drags bustle with decor dens, fashion shops and the city's best eco-emporium.



A) GREATER GOODS

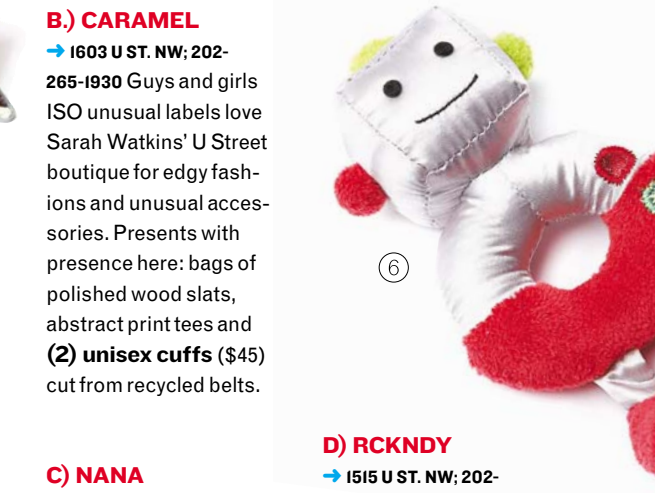
→ **1626 U ST. NW; 202-449-6070** Dreaming of a green Christmas? This eco-home store blooms with carbon-zapping stuff like organic soap, grocery totes and composters. Kid's prezzies shine here, too, like **(1) sustainable wood blocks** ($20) with letters and numbers.

B.) CARAMEL

→ **1603 U ST. NW; 202-265-1930** Guys and girls ISO unusual labels love Sarah Watkins' U Street boutique for edgy fashions and unusual accessories. Presents with presence here: bags of polished wood slats, abstract print tees and **(2) unisex cuffs** ($45) cut from recycled belts.

C) NANA

→ **1528 U ST. NW; 202-667-6955** One skinny floor of a Victorian townhouse showcases indie designs for women by lesser-known names like Dagg and Stacey and House of Spy, plus accessories ideal for passing on, like **(3) Hobo International's pretty wallet** ($68).



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D) RCKNDY

→ **1515 U ST. NW; 202-332-5639** Are we in Brooklyn? Nah, but at U Street's edgy housewares haven, you'll swear you are, what with Alessi gadgets shaped like birds or bunnies, iBride goth-glam trays and other good gifts like **(4) Thomas Paul's springy pillow** ($105).

E) GO MAMA GO!

→ **1809 14TH ST. NW; 202-299-0850** The Chinese lanterns, Japanese bowls and cool serving pieces at this beloved 14th Street bazaar are so bright, you might have to wear shades. Among the many good give-ables: **(5) cat- or dog-decked linen dish towels** ($7).

F) HO

→ **1807 797-554**

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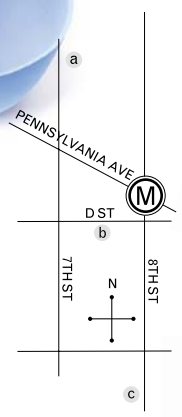


A) EASTERN MARKET

→ 7TH STREET SE AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE; EASTERNMARKET.NET On Saturdays, 10 a.m. -5 p.m, the brick sidewalks around this historic bazaar brim with vendors selling well-priced goods from locally crafted jewelry to holiday sweets. Unusual finds include Golshah Agdasi's chunky **(1) cuff bracelets** ($40 each), studded with rounds of colorful glass. Artist Jimmy Mann's **(2) beer cap cuff links** ($42) come in a range of cool brews, as well as bracelet and ring versions. Designer Jemma Morris' **(3) striped clutch purse** ($45), which comes in a range of colors, has a great preppy-meets-polished appeal. Colorfully cheeky felted wool **(4) jester's slippers** ($25) keep toes snug (and vaguely Ren Festive) and also come in children's sizes ($19).

B) HILL'S KITCHEN

→ 713 D ST. SE.; 202-543-1997 Foodies and cooks sniff out this newish pot, gadget and spice trove, where Emile Henry casseroles keep company with cookie cutters shaped like the 50 states. Thrill your own top chef with **(5) flexible silicone mixing bowls** ($12 and $15).

Eastern Market, D.C.

Capitol Hill's commercial hub boasts a historic souk where artisans hawk their products, plus stylish houseware shops along Barracks Row.

C) HOMEBODY

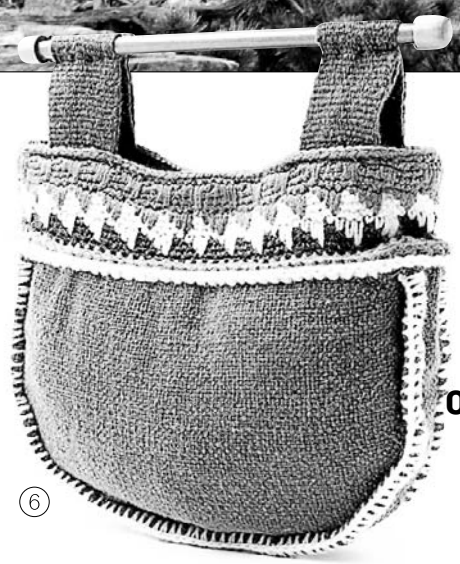
→ 715 8TH ST. SE; 202-544-8445 Wild clocks, funky cups and mod lamps give this Barracks Row fave an urban vibe. Co-owner Henriette Fourcade's mother, Christine, knits **(6) fuzzy hats** ($4-$7) to fit any head (or budget).

Jack Frost nips at your nose, but not your wallet, with Eastern Market's arty, budget buys.

LAWRENCE LUK

Styles | holidays

LAWRENCE LUK



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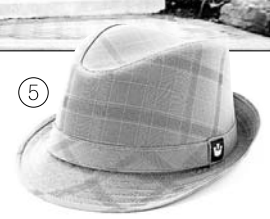

5

Suburban sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style.

4

Clarendon, Va.

Funky housewares, edgy accessories and hip clothing rule this Orange Line zone where local stores mingle with the chain gang.

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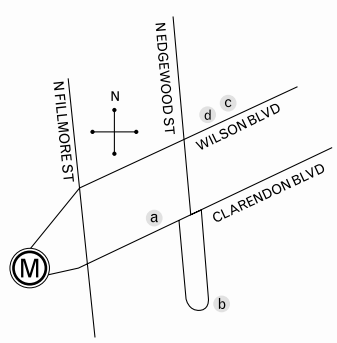


A) FARINELLI'S

2839 CLARENDON BLVD.; 703-647-9856

Jeans savant Mauro Farinelli (of Denim Bar fame) just struck out on his own with this (and a Reston) boutique for dudes and dames. Lines both eco- and just-plain-chic range from Rag & Bone to Kicking Mule Workshop. Good (and delightfully unisex) gifts include Surface to Air's biker-cool **(1) skull key chain** ($231) and **(2)** Sharps' box of **shaving potions** ($69).

B) SOUTH MOON UNDER

2700 CLARENDON BLVD.; 703-807-4083

Though SMU started as an Ocean City surf shop, its Clarendon location goes beyond bathing suits with frilly cocktail frocks, women's jewelry, cool tees for guys and a small-but-interesting stock of housewares. On our giving list: **(3) yellow tech box** ($33), which makes traveling with iPhones, iPods and iWhatevers easier, and **(4) monogrammed highball glasses** ($33), which would lend anybody's bar a retro "Mad Men" twist.

C) SHOEFLY

2727 WILSON BLVD.; 703-243-6490

A wall mural of a guy shredding a guitar and a glamorous purple settee emphasize how funky and fun the merch is at this shoe and accessories emporium (with a sibling on U Street). We're talking presents like a **(5) Rat Pack-gone-hip-hop fedora** ($39) for him or local designer Virginia Arrisueño's **(6) hippy-chick knit bag** ($89) for the Sienna (Miller) or Kate (Hudson) in your life.

D) SISTERS 3

2729 WILSON BLVD.; 703-525-3333

Sell lingerie and offer waxing services under the same roof? Genius. Unsure whether she wants a gift certificate toward a Brazilian this yule? Give her **(7) cowpoke-print pajamas** ($79), starring a six-pack abbed stud instead.

7

holidays | Styles

Bethesda, Md.

The easily shopable suburb, a short ride from downtown D.C. on the Red Line, offers great girly gifts, daring decor and design finds.

A) URBAN CHIC

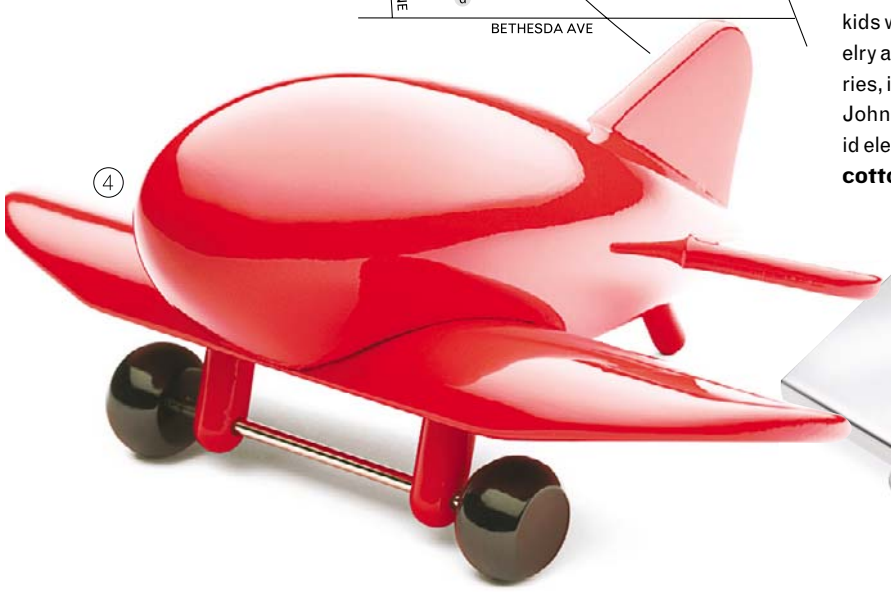
➜ **7126 BETHESDA LANE; 301-657-0290** The newest outpost of this local women's clothing chain is well-stocked with cute kids wear, colorful jewelry and fun accessories, including Virginia Johnson's ultra-vivid elephant pattern **(1) cotton scarf** ($98).

B) GINGER BOUTIQUE

➜ **7114 BETHESDA LANE; 301-664-9242** At this eco-chic shop, find jewelry items from local designer Suzanne Somersall, Orla Kiely bags and CC Skye's punchy **(2) Down to Earth tote** ($250), fashioned from biodegradable canvas.

C) LOU LOU

➜ **7125 BETHESDA LANE; 301-652-0048** This new accessories-only boutique features inexpensive yet adorable stocking stuffers such as these houndstooth **(3) earmuffs** ($15), along with bags, bangles, earrings and more.



D) TUGOOH TOYS

➜ **4823 BETHESDA AVE.; 301-654-2412** This sister store to the popular Georgetown toy shop is just as stocked with cool children's gifts, plus organic clothing and educational games. Playsam's shiny red **(4) jetliner** ($119) mixes sleek Scandinavian styling in a creativity-inspiring action toy.

E) VIVI

➜ **7254 WOODMONT AVE.; 301-656-5626** This slick home design shop carries a range of high-design decor pieces suitable for a hostess or a housewarming. Our favorite finds include Jakob Wagner's **(5) propeller trivets** ($25 each), which come in a rainbow of colors and Blomus' inventive stainless steel **(6) cheese slicer** ($32), best deliver with a hunk of aged cheddar on the side.

LAWRENCE LUK

Some turkey, mistletoe and a big Bethesda spree help to make the season bright.

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Styles | fashion

SECRET SOURCE

An Old-School Wrap: Scoring Vintage Coats

COURTESY OF FRECKLEWONDER.COM

Is that trench new or from Grandma's closet? When it comes to labels like Marc Jacobs or even Zara, it can be hard to tell. Adorably retro details — like fur cuffs, big buttons and plucky plaids — have popped up on this season's best new coats, but here's our secret: If you have time to do just a little looking, the original vintage versions make for a much cuter, and often cheaper, purchase.

"The great thing about vintage coats is that they only came out of the closet for one season, so they didn't suffer heavy wear like an everyday dress," says online vintage merchant Jenny Mitchell, pictured, whose Frecklewonder.com boutique sells fur-collared jackets and swingy capes. "You can often find pieces from the '50s or '60s that are in mint condition, feature great detailing and are incredibly well-made. You see coats with a vintage look nowadays that don't compare to the quality of the original."

Major Web sites like Fashiondig.com, Etsy.com and eBay.com have become popular spots for retro topper trolling. But during the winter, local vintage stores also carry a healthy stock. Georgetown's Secondhand Rose (1516 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-3378) has a good selection of retro outerwear (plus a small stash of fur hats and plush muffs to go with them) while Capitol Hill's Remix Vintage (645 Pennsylvania Ave. SE; 202-547-0211) sells faux fur cover-ups, bright wool swing coats and satiny evening cloaks.

Such finds often have prices as retro as they are. "Compared to buying a new coat, it's inexpensive," says Mitchell, who generally prices the coats in her shop from $30 to $80. And, of course, there's always the thrift store. A recent scout of Goodwill (10 S. Glebe Road; 703-769-3711) turned up a custom-made '60s A-line black wool coat with soft brown fur trim and cuffs. The price? Just $20.

BETSY LOWTHER (EXPRESS)

A Surprising Window of **Opportunity**

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B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS

Kimberly Baca, Michael Greene

Kimberly, 27, is a meetings manager. Michael, 27, is a software engineer. They live in Rockville.

■ **The Main Event:** The couple were married Dec. 6 at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. They celebrated with 40 guests at Havana Blue, a Latin restaurant overlooking Morning Star Beach.

■ **How They Met:** In 2001 as members of the University of Florida marching band. Kimberly played the baritone. Michael played the tuba. The first song they learned was "Orange and Blue."

■ **First Date:** Their love of roller coasters took them to Universal Studios' Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Fla.

■ **How He Proposed:** During a trip to Las Vegas, and after cornering Kimberly's father's near a slot machine and getting his consent, Michael recalls, "I proposed at the Bellagio Fountains." "Michael kept the ring in a sunglasses case, so I thought I was getting a new pair of glasses!" Kimberly says.

■ **Their Song:** "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz. "It has nice lyrics and a tropical feel, a lot like us," Kimberly says.

■ **Making It Unique:** "It was more than just a ceremony and reception," Michael says. "We had a welcome party on the beach, a snorkeling trip and brunch. We wanted to spend as much time as possible with our friends and family who had traveled to be with us."

"We had a party on the beach, a snorkeling trip and brunch."

Running Mates

When **EMILY BEZEK**, 27, and **MARK PETERSON**, 29, went to Smart PT in Arlington in June 2007, they were looking only to overcome running-related injuries, but Mark felt love's first twinge in the physical therapy facility. The FEMA professional remembers his first impression of his future wife: "Emily was upbeat and positive in a room full of patients. I liked how much she laughed even though she was in a lot of pain." Their spark wasn't lost on their peers. Emily, a PR rep for Ogilvy, says, "We later found out our physiotherapist, Liz Fryer, was kind of setting us up. She kept telling each of us to go after the other." The pair acted according to Fryer's prescription in and out of the PT facility.

On Feb. 15, while on a morning run over the Memorial Bridge to D.C., Mark faked a leg cramp and asked Emily to stop. He says, "I pulled her close and told her I loved her. She didn't even let me get down on one knee before she said yes."

On Jan. 3, the couple will be married in the Heinz Chapel in Pittsburgh, Pa., by a close friend of the Peterson family.

Kyle Anderson, Amy Starks

Kyle, 25 is a certified golf fitness instructor for Club Golf in Gaithersburg, Md. Amy, 23, is a contractor at the U.S. Attorney's Office. They live in Arlington.

■ **The Main Event:** Pastor Steve Nelson will marry the couple on May 30 in front of 250 guests at the First English Lutheran Church in Wapakoneta, Ohio, Kyle's hometown.

■ **How They Met:** In the athletic training room at Wilmington College in Ohio.

■ **How He Proposed:** Recalls Amy, "On the day Ohio State played Michigan [in football] in 2007, we had tickets to go up in the Washington Monument. That morning we went, but Kyle couldn't get past the metal detectors because of the ring. He told me he'd been stopped because of his belt, and I believed him. Kyle told the guard his plan, and he let us up. At the top, Kyle asked a man to take our picture, and that's when he got on one knee. Ohio State won AND we got engaged. It was a great day!"

"[At the Washington. Monument], Kyle couldn't get past [security] because of the ring."

■ **When They Knew:** "After nine months of dating," Amy says. "At the Bass Pro Shop," Kyle says.

■ **Their Song:** "You Are" by Jimmy Wayne. "It just fits us," Amy says.

■ **Making It Unique:** Singing "Happy Birthday" to the groom's grandma and grandpa, who share a birthday.

David Brewster, Erin Samuel

David, 23, is a staff assistant on Capitol Hill. Erin, 24, works for the Atlantic Media Company as an IT administrative coordinator. They live in Arlington.

■ **The Main Event:** A Roman Catholic ceremony at St. Rita's Parish in Alexandria on Feb. 7. They will celebrate their union at Top of the Town, a private party venue in Arlington with views of the Potomac River, the National Mall and the Capitol.

■ **How They Met:** In New Jersey while working on the Senate campaign for Tom Kean Jr.

■ **First Date:** The lighting of the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center. "It was something I'd wanted to do forever, but it was a long day and cold. I complained a lot," Amy says.

■ **How He Proposed:** In the Rose Garden at the White House. "I had her convinced I wasn't proposing that night, so she was completely surprised. So much so, I think the Secret Service almost responded to the incident," David says.

■ **Their Song:** "Our first dance will be [to] 'Everything' by Michael Buble," Erin says.

■ **Flowers:** The bride's colors are blue and white, so her bouquet from Conklyn's in Alexandria will have light blue hydrangeas and white roses.

■ **The Honeymoon:** To be determined, but David's "planning the whole thing" Erin says.

■ **Stupidest Fight:** "Over the rules of Monopoly. She was making things up to try and beat me at a board game," David says.

Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.

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